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CUPE strike coverage inside

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february 3rd, 2000 volume 52, issue 22

Students protest cuts to university education funding

BY A. SCOTT BIBBY AND SIMON GLEZOS

More than 1,000 students from UVic and Camosun gathered at the steps of the provincial legislature Wednesday carrying placards and joining "radical" cheerleaders in chants calling for the federal government to inject money into post-secondary education.

The rally was part of Canada-wide protests organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), the country's largest student lobby group.

"We are sick and tired of trying to negotiate with a federal government that doesn't give a shit about us," UVic Student Society (UVSS) director of finance Summer McFadyen told the crowd from the legislature steps.

Paul Ramsey, B.C.'s minister of finance, showed his support for demonstrators calling for the federal government to restore $3.7-billion in provincial transfer payments for post secondary education.

"They've gotta do it, before we see another generation sink into the depths of another education cut," he said.

Third-year UVic student Kim McKay said she joined the protest at the legislature in hopes of putting pressure on the federal government.

"I think education should be free or at least more accessible than it is."

Although some organizers were disappointed with the turnout, others were more optimistic. Last year's October's protest only drew 250 people, while in 1998 a January protest had about 3,000 supporters downtown.

"This is awesome," said Troy Sebastian, a member of the CFS national executive. "This is a good indication that what we've been doing is right...and it's just the beginning."

After hearing speeches from student leaders, the crowd marched through downtown, stopping at the Royal Bank and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to shout anti-student debt slogans.

According to the CFS, since 1990, the average level of debt for a student graduating from a four-year program has more than tripled from $8,000 to $25,000.

The protesters also stopped at Liberal member of Parliament David Anderson's office before heading back to the legislature to listen to bands. The crowd swarmed the locked doors and shouted "Anderson out, education in," while police officers stood inside the office.

continued on page 3: Admin...

Students shout in front of the legislature Wednesday afternoon.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

Students protest nationally

Students in more than 50 communities joined the CFS in their call for more education funding. Here's a cross-Canada look at what happened:

- In St. John's, Newfoundland, – 1,500 students walked out of classes.
- In Charlottetown, more than 200 students at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) participated in a Kraft dinner lunch.
- About 200 students from Concordia University, McGill University and Université du Québec a Montreal bundled up and marched in minus -15 Celsius weather.
- In Ottawa, between 2,000 to 3,000 students and faculty, marched to Parliament Hill.
- In Toronto, student protesters blocked entrances to York University. Downtown an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 students and supporters swarmed Queen's Park.
- In Winnipeg 1,000 students from Manitoba's four major universities walked out of classes.
- In Alberta, students at Mount Royal College in Calgary raised placards and signed postcards to show their support for Access 2000.
- In Vancouver, the Simon Fraser Student Society's took students through an education maze before busing protesters downtown.

-by CUP staff

Disability Awareness Day: Ability is all about attitude

BY GILLIAN JEROME

Brad Hartley says he can remember exactly how his legs felt when stepped out onto the ice at the beginning of a game, wearing hockey pads and his skates laced up around his ankles.

Not a big leap for an athletic guy like Hartley. However the fourth-year biochemistry student is a paraplegic. He lost the use of his legs and his involuntary muscles, the ones that control bladder, bowels and sexual functions, in a fire-fighting accident three years ago.

While battling a forest fire in Vanderhoof, he sat down on a log for a break, bending his head down slightly to rest. With a water pump blaring in the background, he couldn't hear the rotted tree that fell on top of him, breaking his back at the T12 vertebrae, the last bone of the thorax.

"The coolest thing about the injury is the phantom feeling," he says. "It's like I remember exactly how it was to have legs and then I remember, 'oh right, I can't walk.' I have to consciously think about it."

Hartley is among hundreds of students on campus with some sort of limited function, whether it's physical or mental. In many ways we all fit that description in one way or another, says Students with a Disability co-ordinator Dee Remmelts.

Negotiating campus terrain, whether it means sitting in a lecture hall or going to the washroom, or something as simple as hopping a curb, isn't something we think about until we have to, she says.

Remmelts has worked as a resource co-ordinator and counselor for disabled students on campus since 1992. She has chronic back pain which originated from malnutrition growing up during the Second World War in Holland.

After seven corrective surgeries, the last of which left her more disfigured than before, she had to give up her business and decided to return to school. The 66-year-old quit her correspondence courses after what she calls "too much time spent lying in bed," opting instead for student life on-campus with the occasional use of a wheelchair and a bench to lie down on in class.

"A whole life opened up," she said. "The ramps were hard at first but after the complaining [to the university] things are better."

Back in 1988, while studying history at UVic, Gordon Argyle used to wait outside the big wooden doors of the Cornett building for someone to let him in. A quadriplegic, Argyle now works as a consultant for UVic's Facilities Management, giving advice on how to make the campus more user-friendly for people with disabilities. Needless to say, the doors to Cornett are now electronic.

With help from over 200 disabled students on a mailing list, Argyle suggests where to install cuts in the curbs, transfer bars in washrooms or where to lower counters for people in wheelchairs.

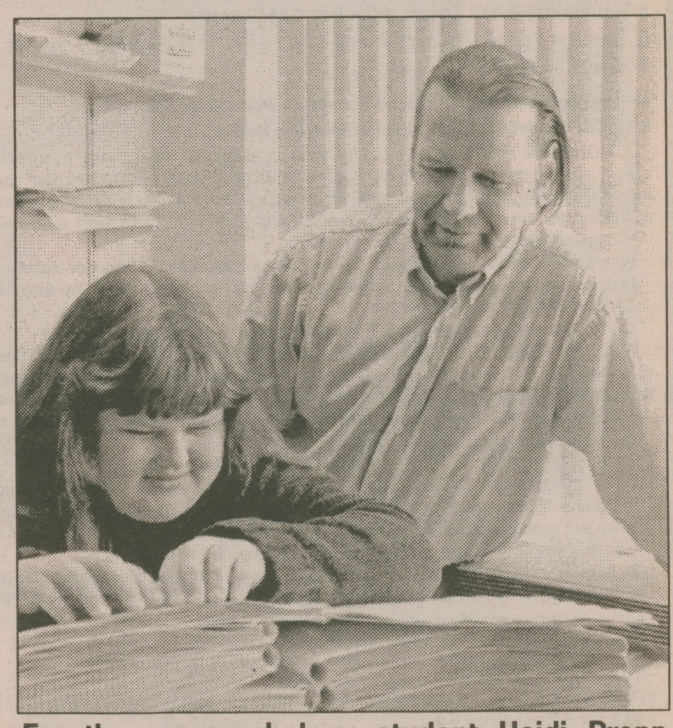
He said he recently asked the university to fill a gaping hole near Petch fountain for a student who is blind.

This summer, Argyle visited 60 washrooms deemed wheelchair accessible "just for fun." He discovered only three had enough equipment for him to maneuver in and out of in his chair.

Since then, the university has promised that every building on campus will have at least one washroom totally functional for people with disabilities.

An accessibility audit done in 1997 resulted in a $200,000 a year provincial grant with a five-year cap for renovating internal and external facilities.

The campus is far from perfect, says Argyle. The entrance to the Cunningham building needs work as do the squash and raquetball courts at the Gordon Head complex.



Fourth-year psychology student Heidi Propp reads a Braille textbook with Pierre Laliberte in the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

continued on page 2: Awareness...

Observers claim abuses in Colombia

BY KEN HENDERSON

The people of Colombia are facing the worst case of repression anywhere in the Western hemisphere.

This was one of the messages delivered by Evelyn Jones and Steve Law, two Canadians who spent eight months doing human rights observation in Colombia. Last week's talk and slide presentation, sponsored by the UVic Latin American Association, shed light on a situation that most students know little about.

"In the past four years, violence has been escalating in Colombia," Law told a crowd of 30 UVic students.

The civil war that began 35 years ago in Colombia has displaced over a million people from their homes in rural communities.

Law and Jones worked with three communities in northwest Colombia where about 15,000 people have been driven from their small farms and are now living in poverty in city refugee camps.

"There's an economic agenda that's pushing this war in Colombia," said Law, who pointed to the country's rich natural resources that many foreign mining, logging and pharmaceutical companies are eager to extract.

"The paramilitaries try to disperse communities from the land so that wealthy landowners can use it for export purposes," he said, adding that the wealthiest six per cent of the population own 70 per cent of the land.

Rochelle Campbell, president of UVic's Latin American Association, said few students know about the situation in Colombia or other Latin American countries.

"At UVic, there is very much a focus on Pacific Asian studies," she said. "Nobody knows what's going on in any of the Latin American countries even though they're much closer."

In Canada, we feel comfortable knowing that other countries' problems don't affect us.

Campbell said UVic used to have more courses on the culture and politics of Central and South America, but these courses have been cut back significantly.

Campbell also blamed the mainstream press for misinforming the general public about the situation in Colombia.

"People perceive violence and drugs. That's what the press pushes," she said. "No one wants to hear about people being tortured. There's no interest."

Law agreed that the media was not giving adequate or accurate information about the situation in Colombia. He also criticized the government and certain Canadian businesses for contributing to the abuse of human rights.

"In Canada, we feel comfortable knowing that other countries' problems don't affect us. We think we don't have a role to play," Law said. "But if Canadian corporations are benefiting from the situation in Colombia, something needs to change."

Law said that several telecommunications companies and many B.C.- based mining companies are among the businesses that fuel the paramilitary's efforts to displace communities and acquire their land.

Jones said that community leaders who try to defend their land rights are often killed or tortured by the paramilitary groups.

According to the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, the American government spends millions of dollars annually to supply arms to the Colombian military.

Awareness building is a daily challenge for university student

continued from Page 1

For example, a former facilities manager at UVic who was slow to spend money on terrain improvements spent a day in a wheel chair. Soon after he filled in the work order for paving and curb cuts on Ring Road.

"It's a matter of awareness," said Argyle. "Sometimes it takes a while to catch on."

Hartley knows all about awareness. He said the chemistry department has been "incredible" with improving access to labs for his benefit. The university recently adapted the eye wash station, installed a portable sink and renovated the fume hoods.

As for creating awareness in his own life, Hartley is a man whose actions speak for him. He travels to Las Vegas this weekend with his $6,000, light-as-a-feather racing chair to compete in a marathon.

Racing has helped him regain confidence in his body by developing his chest and his arms, he said.

"Playing hockey, I used to have strong legs and a tight butt," said Hartley. "That was my thing. But the atrophy in my legs changed all that."

Hartley juggles his time between racing, school and his job at the Ministry of Forests where he works as a safety officer. Just like the phantoms legs, he said life goes on with a disability largely as it did before. "If you make it into a big deal, it is," he said.

Hartley speaks candidly about how his paralysis affects intimate details of his life.

He uses a catheter, a tube he inserts into his penis which drains his bladder. Hartley changes the tube several times a day.

As for bowel movements, Hartley wears a glove over his hand to stimulate the anal muscles by touch. "Sometimes shit just happens," he quips.

Hartley said he has no feeling of orgasm but can create a sustained erection – "the feeling just before" – by using insulin needles he gives himself which release "the hormones required at full mast." He said cock rings and Viagra also do the trick by sending blood to the penis.

Hartley has just started his first sexual relationship since his accident. Engaged to a woman for eight years before his paralysis, he said the only time he worried about losing the use of his penis was just after the accident.

"As a guy you think your world revolves around your penis, but it's sort of like losing one tool out of the box."

He said intercourse for him is more about trust. Other senses become heightened and "other parts are more erotic."

Hartley has visited a couple of high schools to talk about spinal cord injuries. Once a camp counselor and a hockey coach, he's considering a career as a teacher himself.

When asked about the influence of typical role models like Christopher Reeve or Rick Hansen, Hartley said his parents have been his biggest role models, along with Bart Simpson and Wayne Gretzky.

"Someone with a spinal injury visited me in the hospital and showed me that life goes on...Every day for me is literally a gift. I hate negative people. It drives me crazy when I see people who think life owes them something."

*Please Recycle

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UVSS ACCESS 2000 CFS

February 17th, 2000 - 1:00 pm SUB Upper Lounge

AGENDA

CFS FCE

1. Call to Order
2. Ratification of Speaker
3. Review Robert's Rules of Order
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Introductions and Report of the Board of Directors
6. Question Period *Question Period shall be limited to 15 (fifteen) minutes.*
7. Report on Finances

Be it resolved that the 1999/2000 budget be adopted as amended.

8. Special Resolutions Which Have Received Due Notice:

A. MOTIONS to Amend Bylaws - The following constitutional additions and/ or amendments require a 3/4 majority to pass:

a) Be it resolved that references to the "Administrative Coordinator" and "Comptroller" be replaced with "General Manager."
b) Be it resolved that references to the "Ombudsperson Committee" be replaced with "Ombudsperson Advisory Committee."
c) Whereas the name "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance" is not inclusive of many sexual minorities, such as transgendered and two-spirited people or queer positive people;
Whereas the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance Collective has voted in favour of renaming the Alliance as UVSS Pride; therefore
Be it resolved that all constitutional and bylaw references to the "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance" be replaced with "UVSSPride;" and
Be it further resolved that Bylaw 1.15 be amended to read as follows:
"UVSS Pride" shall refer to the Pride Society of the University of Victoria Students' Society.
d) Whereas the Collective of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance has requested an amendment to Bylaw 20; therefore
Be it resolved that Bylaw 20.2 be amended by replacing existing language with the following:
"Membership in UVSS Pride shall be comprised of any person who successfully meets the membership qualifications as set out in the bylaws of UVSS Pride."
e) Be it resolved that Bylaw 2.1 (a) and (d) be amended to read as follows:
(a)All currently registered undergraduate students and students enrolled in certificate and diploma programs at the University of Victoria. Students who fail to pay their current Society fees are not members in good standing of the Society; moreover
(d)Members in bad standing shall not be entitled to vote in membership meetings, hold office of the Students' Society or receive any other privileges, benefits or discounts accorded to members.
f) Be it resolved that Bylaw 4.7 (e) be amended by replacing existing language with the following:
The Students' Society shall send out a notice to co-op students on work terms, by the first day of campaigning, containing:
i) the referendum question(s)
ii) referenda ballots and campaign information;
iii) the date by which ballots must be received back in order to be duly cast.
iv) a self addressed stamped return envelope.
g) In the event that the preceding motion fails; therefore.... Be it resolved that Bylaw 4.7 (e) be amended to replace reference to Bylaw 6.2 with Bylaw 6.4.
h) Be it resolved that Bylaw 6.4 and 6.5 be deleted.
i) Be it resolved that Bylaw 6.9 (a) and (b) be amended by replacing existing language with the following:
(a) Co-op students on a work term may vote in society elections.
(b) The Electoral Committee must send out a notice to co-op students on work terms, by the first day of campaigning, containing:
i) election ballots and candidates' platforms;
ii) the date by which ballots must be received back in order to be duly cast.
iii) a self addressed stamped return envelope.
j) Be it resolved that Bylaw 6.9 (c) be amended to replace the word "referenda" with "elections."
k) Be it resolved that Bylaw 13.2 be amended by replacing 13.2 (b) with the following and deleting 13.2 (c):
(c) The Students' Society may establish funds for capital, endowment, or other purposes, and in each year the Board of Directors in the annual budget shall set the allocation for any such funds.
l) Be it resolved that Bylaw 13.3 be amended by replaced (b) and (c) with the following:
(b)The signatures of the General Manager and any two of the executive directors shall be required for the disbursement of any funds or the execution of any legal documents on behalf of the Students' Society.
Be it further resolved that Bylaw 13.3 be amended by replacing (d) and (e) with the following:
In the absences of the General Manager, she shall designate in writing a member of the Students' Society's senior management staff to assume the General Manager's signing authority as described in 13.3(b).
m) Be it resolved that Bylaw 25.1 be amended by replacing it with the following:
Standing Committees
a. The Board of Directors may establish committees of the Society, and fix the terms of reference and membership thereto.
b. The following shall be the standing committees of the Society and function according to their respective terms of reference:
i. Canadian Federation of Students/Campaigns
ii. Clubs Council
iii. Course Union Council
iv. Electoral (which shall also function in accordance with Bylaw 6.3)
v. Environmental Resp.
vi. Finance
vii. Health Plan Appeals Committee
viii. Ombudsperson Advisory
ix. Operational Relations
x. Organizational Development
xi. Personnel
xii. Special Events
xiii. SUB and Services
xiv. U-Pass Appeals (Bus Pass)

B.MOTIONS to Amend Policy - The following are policy additions and/ or amendments which require a 2/3 majority to pass:
i) Be it resolved that policy 2.b 94/08/16 (i) be amended by replacing the phrase "lesbians, gays, bisexuals" with "queer people."
ii) Be it resolved that policy section 3.g be called "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Two-Spirited Issues."

MOTIONS to Amend Policy served by petition – The following are policy additions and/ or amendments, which require a 2/3 majority to pass:

i)WHEREAS the UVSS has established policies reflecting certain religious, moral and political values, and
WHEREAS the students of the University of Victoria are not necessarily of one mind on those issues, and
WHEREAS the UVSS is committed to representing all students of the university of Victoria without discrimination on the basis of religious, moral, or political beliefs, and
WHEREAS the UVSS is committed to upholding students' constitutional rights to freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, and to ensuring the free and respectful exchange of ideas and exposure to diverse opinions that is necessary for the cultivation of a true learning environment, and
WHEREAS equal access to UVSS Club Status and funding is vital to students' ability to exercise their freedom of expression and to participate in activities within a diverse community on an equal footing,
Be it resolved that the UVSS Clubs policy section III (1) is amended to read:
a. EACH CLUB MUST:
1. Have a constitution, duly approved by Clubs Council and ratified by the Board of Directors, that is in compliance with this and all other policies of the UVSS, subject to subsection 1.1.
1.1 No existing or proposed club shall be denied UVSS club status or funding on the grounds that its constitu tion, objectives, policies, or practices are inconsistent with any UVSS Policy relating to the matter of abortion.

9. Other Business

Motions can be moved off the floor, and require a simple majority to pass. All motions from the floor shall be submitted to the Chair in written format, with the mover clearly identified before the motion is opened to discussion.

10. Notice of Motion

Notice for motions for the next General Meeting to be held in October, 2000 can be given at this time.

11. Adjournment

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Contract for CUPE workers brings labour peace

BY GILLIAN JEROME

Pickets lines were dismantled only hours after they went up around campus early Monday morning.

An agreement was reached between the province and B.C.'s largest universities after a 28-hour bargaining marathon at the Labour Board in Vancouver, said Doug Sprenger, president of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 951.

The settlement for UVic workers includes a better pension, increased long-term disability benefits and pay equity – the issues holding up contract negotiations between two support staff unions and university administration since last January.

Talks were slow until the union's Jan. 31 midnight deadline approached, said Sprenger. Negotiations continued through the night to avert the picket lines erected at all UVic, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser and the University of Northern British Columbia.

The Georgia Street office was packed, he said, as the provincially-appointed mediator Stephen Kelleher squared-off with seven CUPE locals. Agreements were reached for all parties involved just after noon on Feb. 1.

"All is quiet on the bargaining front," said Sprenger, adding that he was tired after the intensity of the bargaining. "It's been a long haul after working for two years to organize the process. Now university life can get back to normal."

Sprenger said he believes the deadline upped the ante to settle, as did strength in numbers by having 60 union representatives bargaining on behalf of employees.

The two support staff unions at UVic represent 1000 employees responsible for everything from answering telephones, to delivering parking tickets, to dishing out food to hungry students and faculty.

Most students traveling by bike, car or foot were able to get onto campus without crossing pickets.

"I didn't listen to the radio so I didn't know about the strike. The bus didn't come onto campus so I walked. The pickets weren't blocking my building. If they were, I wouldn't have gone to class," said Carrie Ann Taylor, a third-year history student.

Buses honoured the strike, leaving it up to students to walk the extra distance to class or head back home.

Fourth-year biology student Mark Rappaport said he didn't even try to get to campus. "I work up here, not for the union, but I honour picket lines," he said.

UVic Students' Society members were out early delivering coffee to union members at various picket locales, said a group of union employees who were out early picketing the bookstore.

"I'm so glad the workers are back to work with a contract, and getting paid the money they deserve," said student society chair Morgan Stewart. He said the student society worked closely with unions to ensure that students weren't penalized.

The university administration echoed a similar response. "Unions have a right to picket," said Jack Falk, vice president of operations and finance. "It was short enough not to disrupt students too much."

Falk said he doesn't believe relations between the university and the unions have become bitter as a result of the lengthy contract negotiations.

CUPE members prepare for the picket lines on Jan. 31.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

Pickets targeted profit centres like the book store, the cafeterias and the university centre, Stewart said. "A huge amount of cash came in that day and no doubt [the pickets] had an effect on settlement," he said.

However, not all students expressed support for the workers. At the Finnerty Road entrance, a student in a white truck stopped in front of picketing staff long enough to say "get the fuck off the road."

Although the unions' new contract expires in March of 2002, the agreement doesn't mean absolute peace for labour relations on campus. The university is still negotiating a contract with Local 4163, the union local representing sessionals.

Meanwhile a special mediator was just appointed by the province to quicken the bargaining process for support staff at B.C.'s 11 colleges. A negotiation deadline has been set for Feb. 16 by Labour Minister Joan Smallwood. Unions have agreed not to take any job action during mediation.

Admin "surprised and disappointed"

One of over 1,000 protesters at the legistlature.

Martlet photo by Shelley Chalmers

continued from page 1.

Earlier in the day, about 200 students tried to enforce last week's favourable student strike vote by positioning themselves at campus entrances.

Although some cars made it through the picket lines in the early morning, by 9:30 there were enough students on the roads to block some entrances to the campus until the strike finished at 11:30.

We had received assurances from the UVSS that were clearly not honoured

However, there were students who did not support the strike.

"I don't agree with the strike. I think the money should be going toward [federal] debt payment," said Ryan Johnston, a third-year math student.

Bruce Kilpatrick, director of communications for UVic, said the university was both surprised and disappointed by students blockading the roads.

"We had received assurances from the UVSS that were clearly not honoured...The main concern is the extent to which this behaviour has hurt the cause."

In addition to student protesters, members of UVic 's Canadian Union of Public Employees locals were on the lines and at the legislature steps.

"They supported our fight, now we want to see student's get the education they need," said Doug Sprenger, president of Local 951.

Devin Lee, Kristina Urquhart and Caitlin Warbeck hold the picket line on Wednesday morning.

Martlet photo by Jeremy Miller

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IT'S NOT A SECRET ANY LONGER!

Victoria printers refuse to print controversial photo of naked child

BY BRENDA MARTIN

A women's newspaper on campus changed the cover of their newspaper this week because their printer, Island Publishers, would not print the original cover photo.

The cover depicts a woman baring her breasts in a black latex bodice with her naked, prepubescent daughter dancing beside her.

The Womyn's Publication Netwerk, formerly called the Emily, had voted to run the photo taken by Vancouver artist Lincoln Clarkes.

However, Island Publisher's assistant press division manager Jan McGee said, as a mother herself, she found the image of the girl offensive.

"I am not saying that they can't get it printed. I am just saying that I'm not going to print it."

The newspaper's publishers decided to place a box across the girl's body that reads "censored" to avoid having to ship the newspaper off Vancouver Island to find a printer who would agree to print it.

"As a university paper we just don't have those kind of resources," said co-publisher Lisa Helps.

The group chose the cover image for an issue dedicated to discussing perspectives and experiences of sex, and sexual diversity.

Because the image of a mother and child veered away from common images of sex, the newspaper collective thought it would open up discussion about women's sexuality in a feminist context, she added.

"Mothers with or without their children are seen without sexuality." This image was trying to allow mothers "into a space where they are allowed to be seen as sexual," said Helps.

"What [Island Publishers' reaction] says to me is that the people at Island Publishers aren't willing to bring a child's body outside the realms of pornography," said Jesseca White, Womyn's Publication Network co-publisher. "I see [the image] as a beautiful picture because of what I bring to it. Whereas Jan [McGee] brings something different to it and therefore sees it differently."

There are varying opinions about whether Island Publisher's decision was appropriate.

Hamar Foster, associate dean of UVic's Faculty of Law, said he sympathizes with the paper, because he was in a similar situation when he was in university. However, in his view, "Businesses are fairly free to decide what sort of business they accept, unless in doing so they violate Human Rights laws."

Debby Yaffe, professor in the Women Studies department, feels that the image should have been printed unaltered.

"[The newspaper collective] is not using [the image] to encourage the consumption of a product men sell or using it to encourage the exploitation of children's bodies.

They are presumably using it to get a response and use that to help women discuss their sexuality and representation of women's bodies."

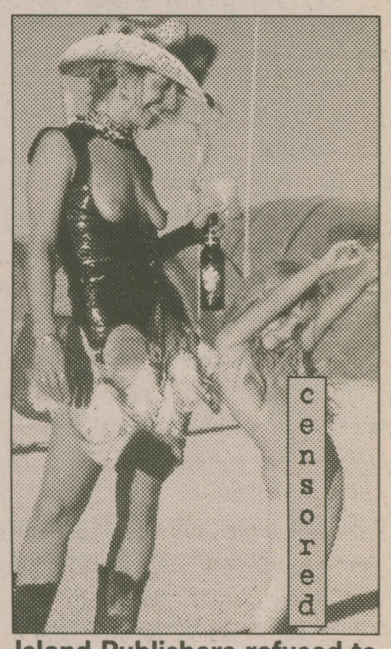
United Church chaplain Henri Lock takes a different stance, seeing the pictures as oppressive.

"For many people this would be an acceptable or titillating image. If the intent was to challenge the image by putting it on the front page, I don't think it would be seen as such . . . . It is using the human body to sell a point of view."

In his view, UVic writing teacher Cameron Young sympathizes with Island Publishers for not wanting to run the picture.

"Not on a moral basis," he said. "But because of the restrictive pornography laws and the recent hysteria around child pornography. It is likely that a charge could be brought against the printers under the pornography laws."

The 1993 amendment of the Criminal Code makes illegal any visual depictions of persons under 18 involved in explicit sexual acts, depiction of "sexual organs" or "anal region" as well as any written or visual content that "advocates or counsels" sexual activity with a person under the age of 18 or any person portrayed to be under the age of 18.



Island Publishers refused to print an uncensored version of this photo for the cover of an on-campus publication.

Photo by Lincoln Clarkes

Co-op students to pay higher fees

BY SARAH MCEACHERN

Starting in September, the students' society will be collecting about $30 a term from co-op students on work terms and distance learning students.

The Jan. 24 decision by the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors to start charging absentee students fees is already proving to be controversial.

"This is basically a tax grab for the UVSS," said John Trueman, one of 3,000 co-op students at UVic.

He said the decision is based on the presumption that co-op students are "rich engineering students."

"I'll be lucky to clear $1000 this month," adds Trueman, currently on a co-op work term in Vancouver.

The board decided to start charging the fees to ensure students who aren't on campus, or are in some continuing studies programs, benefit from the students' society's advocacy and campaigns, said student society finance director Summer McFadyen.

"Co-op students are considered to be full-time students in the UVSS's

constitution, but they haven't been paying student fees. We are representing them while they are away. It's basically been an error that they haven't been charged."

However, they will only be charged half of the regular student fee because they don't always have access to the Student Union Building's facilities.

The UVSS chair Morgan Stewart estimates that each term there is about 625 students on co-op work terms, 1,600 distance learning students and 400 continuing studies students. Given those numbers, the new fees will bring in $105,000.

However, some students wonder why co-op students on a work term during the summer have to pay fees, while students who have regular summer jobs don't.

"This is pretty sneaky," says fourth-year history student Noëlle Colquhoun. "There was no consultation on this issue, and students currently on work terms don't know it's been implemented."

The student society is supposed to represent the students and, therefore should have called a forum on this issue before making decisions behind closed doors, said Colquhoun.

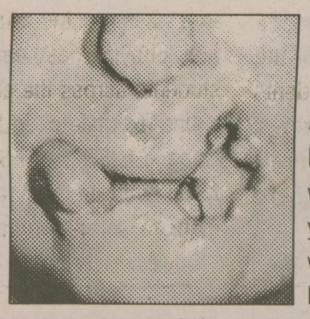
Graduate Students' Society president Sandra Guarascio said co-op fees for grad students – half of regular student fees – have always been in place.

Minister wants package warnings

BY SIMON GLEZOS

According to government studies, size does matter, at least when it comes to warning labels.

A recent proposal by federal health minister Alan Rock advocates changes to cigarette warning labels.



Under the proposed legislation the warning labels would take up 50 per cent of the package, up from the current 35 per cent.

Along with the usual information, the warnings would also contain graphic pictures of smoking-related medical problems. The pictures depict people in advanced stages of lip, mouth and lung cancer.

The proposed regulation came about as a result of studies on the effect of warning labels.

"We conducted a series of focus groups to see how Canadians were affected by warning labels...We understood that pictures speak louder than words," said Health Canada spokesperson Derek Kent.

The proposed images would be rotated on a regular basis, he said, adding that repeated messages quickly become stale in the consumer's mind.

Under the new regulations, the inside of cigarette packages would contain a 1-800 number which smokers could call for information about quitting.

Response to the labels has, so far, been positive. "I think when my friends and I started smoking, we didn't know the dangers," said Nancy Cheung, a first-year UVic student who started smoking in grade 11. "The new cigarette campaigns show stuff that we need to know."

Meanwhile, other students are more skeptical. Andrea Bumstead, a first-year student who's been smoking for five years said the new labels won't change her smoking habits.

"It's repulsive and I wouldn't want to look at the packs, but, you know, if I want a cigarette, I want a cigarette."

Medical studies have shown that 50 per cent of smokers will eventually die as a result of their habit, leading to one death from smoking every 13 seconds.

In response to the tobacco company's hesitation about reproducing the intricate images, Kent pointed to a recent press conference held by Health Minister Alan Rock. At the conference, Minister Rock produced a pack of matches made by tobacco manufacturers, with a design complex enough to prove that production is not the problem.

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Carolien Geiger, Learning Skills course
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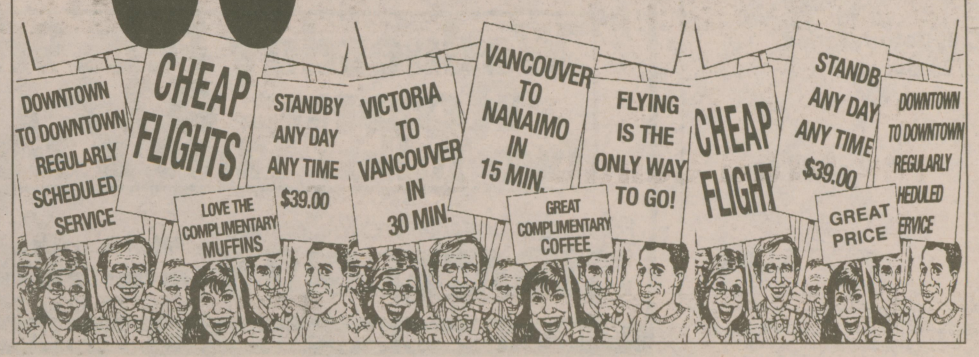
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Online student photos axed

BY GORDON LOANE

FREDERICTON (CUP) – The University of New Brunswick (UNB) has stopped giving professors and instructors access to digital photos of students after complaints the practice violated student privacy.

During a meeting last week, the University's Fredericton campus Senate scrapped the five-month-old practice of putting student identification photos online along with academic records only available to teachers.

"This is a privacy issue, most students don't know about it and have not been consulted and I am very concerned," said Senator Karla Aucoin, a UNB student council member.

She said students weren't aware their photos were available to their teachers until a professor made an off-hand comment during a class.

"The students that I talked to were very surprised and concerned," she said.

Deanne Dennison, UNB registrar, said people are naturally concerned and uneasy about the issue.

"If you work with students, as we do in this office, on a regular basis or in UNB's Financial Services, you know that a number of students have very legitimate concerns about how their information is being used and who can gain access to it," said Dennison.

During the meeting, several senators tried to ease student concerns about the photos by suggesting those who wanted their photos deleted from the University's online system could notify the registrar's office.

Other professors said having access to student photos was a good idea because it makes it easier to recognize students.

Still other professors favoured expanding the availability of student photos beyond professors and instructors to deans, associate deans, department chairs and academic advisors. They also said UNB Traffic and Security personnel could use the photos to help solve campus crime cases.

The decision by Senate to nix access to student photos has set off a debate among students about who has access to their academic transcripts, class schedules and phone numbers.

Dennison, the UNB registrar, said access to student information is very limited and is mostly confined to instructors and university staff who need it for administrative jobs.

"I think we need to have a renewed discussion about who is to have access to student records," said Dennison. A small committee consisting of students, professors and administrative staff needs to revisit existing policies governing campus information systems, she added.

"We need to determine what is a reasonable approach given our current academic regulations governing confidentiality, security and release of student academic records which are already quite tight."

Student campaign under scrutiny

BY REKA SZEKELY

TORONTO (CUP) – York's student union president has serious concerns about the way a national student campaign is being run on both a local and national level.

The Access 2000 cross-Canada campaign, spearheaded by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), aims to freeze tuition rates, increase federal transfer payments and institute a system of grants instead of loans.

CFS is a dinosaur organization that's doing the same thing as it was five years ago," says Dockery.

Dave McGrane, president of the Graduate Students Association (GSA), disagrees with Dockery's assessment of the situation. He says CFS lobbying has been beneficial to students across the country.

One example cited by McGrane is when in 1989 the CFS was successful in lobbying the federal government to scrap a proposal to place GST on tuition.

My problem is the CFS is a dinosaur organization that's doing the same thing as it was five years ago

At York, the campaign is being led by the York Federation of Students (YFS), the Graduate Students Association (GSA) and the Access 2000 Coalition. Both the YFS and the GSA are members of the CFS.

Horace Dockery, president of the YFS, says although he supports the Access campaign he does not support the methodology behind it. In his experience, students have always protested tuition increases, yet universities have continued to hike rates.

"There's a whole saying that goes 'If you always do what you did, you always get what you got,'" says Dockery. He feels the CFS should be appealing to the masses instead of lobbying politicians.

Lack of mass appeal and lack of change is an inherent problem within the CFS, he says. "My problem is the

Further, student campaigns have resulted in tuition freezes in Newfoundland, Québec and British Columbia. "That wasn't won because the government woke up one day and said, 'Gee, we want to give students a tuition freeze,'" says McGrane.

He maintains the CFS is doing an extremely good job on the Access campaign and at lobbying the government in general. "If you fight, you're not guaranteed a win. If you don't fight you're guaranteed a loss," he says.

Dockery thinks the CFS should invest in a media campaign to get the message out to the public. The federation should have started a fund for local, provincial and national paid television spots and other similar initiatives, says Dockery.

Elissa Horscroft, executive research assistant for the YFS, says television spots and a national ad campaign are not realistic. "The truth is we're working with a very limited budget. At the end of the day, it isn't feasible," she says.

McGrane agrees, adding it would only be possible if students' CFS membership fees were increased.

However, Dockery remains critical of the campaign conducted at York. "My concern with the YFS campaign is that students are not involved on the grassroots level," says Dockery.

He feels more of an effort should have been made to involve the common student and campus clubs in the organization process. "A lot of it is being organized by the CFS and the Access 2000 Coalition, not by general students and the Clubs Coalition," he says.

According to McGrane, the student campaign has widespread support. "We do have people from all over the place. The diversity of people involved in this coalition is amazing," he says.

Horscroft agrees York's campaign has been successful in reaching out to the general student populace. "We've just done so much one-on-one talking with so many students," she says.

Dockery says there is a clear difference of opinion among the executive on issues like Access. He admits the YFS has experienced internal problems they are trying to iron out.

Ontario accuses students accused of high loan defaults

BY CHRIS BODNAR

OTTAWA (CUP) – Student leaders say the Ontario government is unfairly demonizing students as cheaters trying to bilk the student loan system, and they add that the government's own numbers prove that portrayal is wrong.

Figures released on Monday by Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities indicate the province's overall student loan default rate has decreased by almost four per cent in 1999 to 18.2 per cent.

But student leaders say the Ontario government's announcement is unfair to students and diverts attention from larger issues regarding core funding to post-secondary education in Canada.

"The Ontario government is using a crime and punishment model on student loans," said Elizabeth Carlyle, the deputy chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students. "They're portraying students like people trying to cheat the system. But the proof is to the opposite. Students are concerned about dealing with public money."

The announcement follows a revelation that the federal government is considering giving $100-million in retroactive risk premiums to the three Canadian banks administering student loans. Government officials are calling the proposal the "best deal" available in order to keep the banks interested in the student loan business.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) handed over the administration of the Canada Student Loan Program to the banks in 1995, saying the program was too large to administer alone.

The announcement of Ontario's declining default rates comes on the heels of harsh new policies on handling student loans by the province's government. Students are now subject to credit checks prior to being approved for a student loan. The government also began deducting loan repayments from student tax returns, and forcing universities to share default costs.

Still, Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Diane Cunningham says the most recent results aren't good enough.

"It's encouraging that more students are paying back their loans, but default rates are still too high. More can and must be done." .

In the midst of Ontario's announcement, and the revelation that the banks may be getting a hefty bail-out, Carlyle said Ottawa's justification that the student loan portfolio is getting too large to handle alone is misleading. She added that the Ontario government is being allowed to get away with unjustly cracking down on its own loan system.

"The federal government says on one hand the portfolio is so large they need the help of the banks," said Carlyle. "Why is the portfolio so large? It's because they cut education. The provinces had to pass this on through increased tuition fees. Now students need more loans to go to school."

According to the CFS, there are numerous definitions of what a student loan default is. The model the

The Ontario government is using a crime and punishment model on student loans

banks and governments use is to declare a loan in default whenever a student misses three loan payments. Nonetheless, banks can still hold loans and eventually collect after they've been declared as default.

And Ontario government figures show university loan defaults at only 8.4 per cent in 1999. The overall number of default rates is increased, however, when loans to students at private institutions are included. These default rates are over 30 per cent for private vocational schools.

Carlyle says when student loans are considered, including default loans that are later repaid, only seven per cent of student loans can be declared as default.

Overall numbers for student loan default rates across Canada indicate a decrease in student loan default rates.

Gino Trifiro, a representative from HRDC, said the overall national default rate has decreased from almost 30 per cent in 1994-95 to an anticipated 26 per cent in 1996-97. But he says private banking institutions still thought they could do better at collecting and now need additional loan guarantees from the federal government.

Steve Dyck, a representative from the Royal Bank of Canada, estimates student loan defaults at over 26 per cent. But he says this figure is based on estimates from HRDC and that the Royal Bank has no official numbers to release at the moment.

On Tuesday, Royal Bank CEO John Cleghorn was reported as saying Canadian banks have seen losses since taking over administering student loans, and that they need more financial guarantees from Ottawa.

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editorial

Enough strikes already

Are you feeling overwhelmed by too many strikes? Don't feel bad if you are because we certainly are. Just the other night a Martlet staffer dreamed that our usually ever-so-peaceful campus was overrun with CUPE strikers, student strikers, professors striking the students, bunnies striking the strikes, dogs striking against restrictions and ducks striking just for the hell of it.

These past weeks, whenever somebody spoke about a "strike" they always had to qualify which particular strike was being referred to. The annoying confusion was intolerable. It's finally over, yesterday was the Access 2000 student strike and the CUPE situation is resolved – we think.

Let's be clear here: we support strikes, strikers and the right to strike. We're not disparaging the importance or power of a strike, but it would perhaps be more powerful if the strikes and walkouts had more teeth. Basically, go hard or go home. How powerful can the message be if the strike for Access 2000 is from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m? That's when many students get out of bed. Three hours! And don't forget the strike in November – quite a waste of time. Oh we just want to disrupt classes (and piss students off) to make a point. Or the CUPE strike on Monday. It's great that the issues surrounding the CUPE strike have been (possibly) resolved, and not that we're advocating violent Depression-era-Molotov cocktail clichés of strikes, but...

Then let's talk about the competing strikes – students don't know what the hell is going on from one day to the next. Who's on strike? Why? For how long? Are the strikes related? Why should we care? Is it a rotating picket line? What buildings are affected? Is it the whole campus? Are they closing the roads or is it informational? If it's informational, where's the information and why aren't the busses crossing?

The problem that develops, unfortunately, is that students get to the point where they get so sick of strikes, strikes, strikes, that they start to work against the issues. At one point we may have cared, but how long can the interest in the issues last?

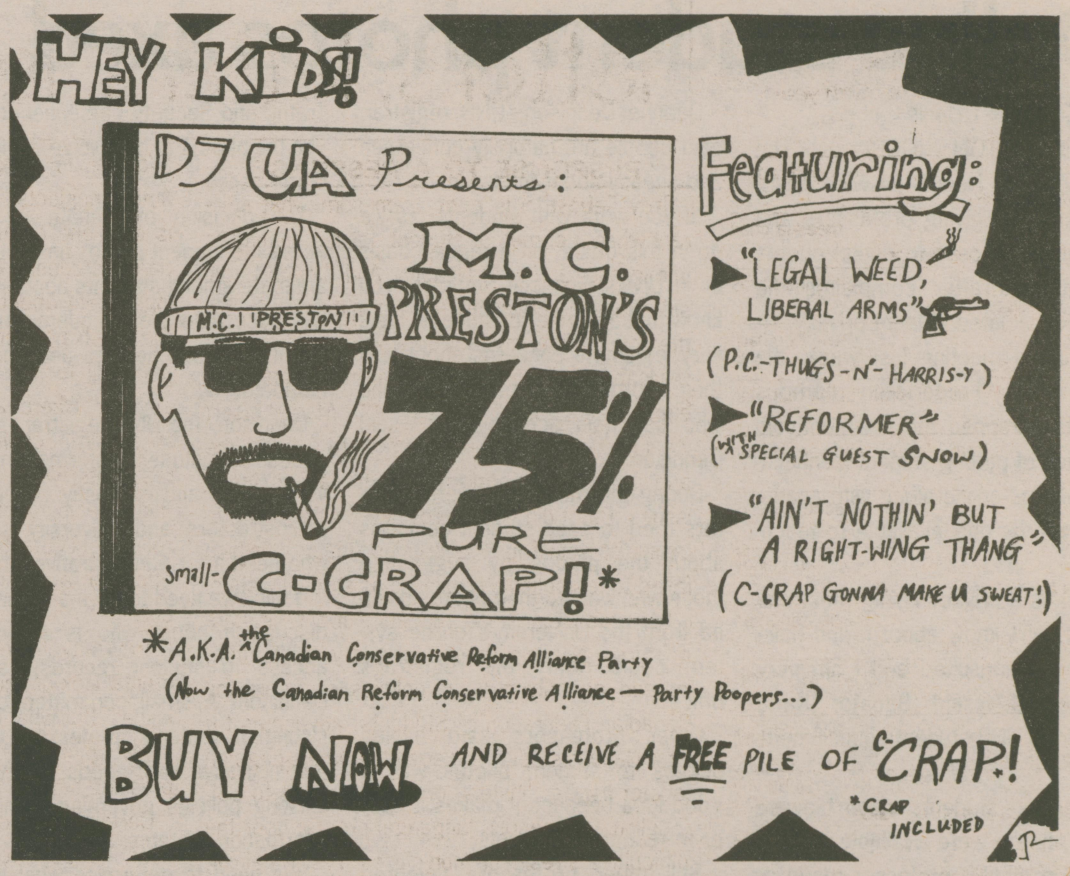
In order to maintain support, unions need to communicate clear objectives and what exactly they are asking the people affected by the strike to do. Many students have never crossed a picket line but because of the confusion and lack of information, we're left wondering if many students inadvertently did on Monday. We heard it was rotating around a few buildings, with informational pickets at a few entrances. Upon reaching campus, (after the trek across campus because the bus wouldn't cross the picket line), it was awful not knowing for sure whether we were crossing picket lines or if picketers were trying to close the campus or what.

The CUPE members on the line didn't even seem to have a straight answer for us. The CBC news Monday night told me that CUPE had "closed the campuses at the four B.C. universities." If that was their intention, it wasn't adequately communicated to their strongest student supporters. Many of us crossed and now we're left confused and angry. We are pleased that CUPE may have resolved their disability and pay equity issues, but we are left resenting the confusion and lack of information.

We could have been far more supportive had we known what was happening. Maybe the next time a campus-related organization plans any kind of strike action – especially when two separate groups plan action during the same week – they should consider just how confusing all these strikes can be.

Perhaps confusion is the point. Perhaps inconveniencing students to get through to the employers and government is the point. But perhaps students are tired of getting the point.

Editorial topics are decided upon by staff at editorial meetings on Mondays at 4:30 and are written by one or more members. Opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.



letters, letters, letters....

No to extra fees

My name is Evan VanderSluys and I am currently on a co-op work-term.

I'm writing in regards to the initiative to charge co-op students UVSS fees. I'm not sure what the fees are but I don't particularly agree with being charged extra, unless it included medical coverage, etc, etc. But from what I recall, the UVSS fees were for use of UVic Facilities.

Co-op students already have to pay their co-op a work-term fee each semester. I have not been on campus and don't see why I should pay this fee or how I will benefit from it. I have absolutely no contact with school when I am on a work-term and little contact with my co-op. An extra charge could make it hard for students to pay for their work-term as it is already around $300.

Evan VanderSluys

Statistics a fantasy

I just wanted to write about the statistics you printed under the title of "The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality," specifically the survey on the sex lives of university students. The survey declares that "men reported having sexual fantasies once a day, while women reported having sexual fantasies about once a week." I'm sorry, but who exactly did this survey? Give me a break! As a female university student, I can most definitely say that I have a lot more sexual fantasies than one per week.

And although I haven't had an astounding number of sexual partners, all my partners have been male and none of them have matched my sex drive. I also know several women who have had similar experiences. I wish you had written a column discussing the results of the survey: those statistics, to me, anyway, represent our perceptions of male and female sexuality, and not necessary the realities. For example, it is far more acceptable in our culture for men to be sexually aggressive; women who fall into the same category often tend to be discriminated against and labeled as abnormal, a bitch, a butch, or a slut. How many women wouldn't want to admit that they have sexual fantasies, because they feel embarrassed? Probably a lot, I'd guess. And how many men would over estimate that? Don't just print statistics like that in a sex issue that also includes a centrefold of sex toys! There was a lot in there that could have been deconstructed.

Michelle Deines

Won't do the UVSS dance

The UVSS does a lot of amazing things for the students who are at UVic, and the students who are at UVic pay for those amazing things. If I'm in Iqualuit on a work term, I won't pay $100ish so that some enrolled UVic student can take their partner to a subsidized salsa class in the SUB.

That's what the other 10,000 students are for. Paying for co-op is already expensive, but at least they help you find a job. If I'm paying UVSS fees when I'm in Iqualuit, Morgan Stewart is getting his elected ass to Baffin Island and teaching me the forbidden dance.

Spencer Maybee

soap box

tv is evil

BY DAVID BROWN

I was talking to my friend on the phone last night and she said something both simple and profound: "Why do we watch tv when we have arms and legs? If we were just torsos it might make sense."

And it doesn't make sense. How many people come home after a long day at work or school, plop down on the couch and stay there (minus bathroom breaks and maybe dinner) until they go to bed? When I think about television, characters, conflicts and situations all come to mind. But while my mind might be numbly analyzing flashing images, I am doing nothing besides sitting very still, possibly for hours on end, and staring at a little screen.

It's unfortunate that most of North America has devolved into automatons staring motionless at these ubiquitous little (decadent) boxes. It does seem like we are ignoring our bodies and becoming strange watching-not-moving torsos. For many of us, instead of talking, thinking, exercising, taking care of our families, we spend most of our time sitting and vegetating – whether in our cars driving to work, behind big board meeting tables and little computers, in the uniform desks of a classroom, or on a sagging couch before the thousands of images we have come to depend on.

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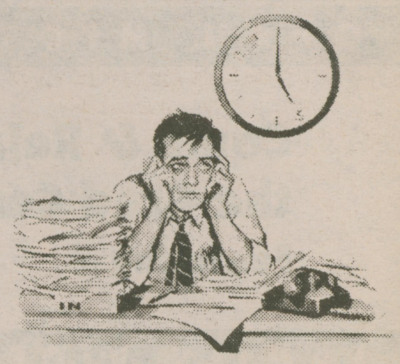

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letters, letters, letters, letters, letters

RESPONSE TO A RESPONSE

Troy Sebastian is right. I am somewhat ignorant when it comes to student issues relating to immigrants and First Nations. And though I consider myself sufficiently familiar with living below the poverty line, my familiarity with child poverty is vicarious. Access 2000 and, in particular, its eight page "Student Issues 2000" *Martlet* insert would have been a perfect vehicle to educate me and other ill-informed students about these issues. But it did not. It provided, instead, a potpourri of social justice articles, many of which failed to establish themselves as student issues.

For example, instead educating about the state of First Nations post-secondary education, instead describing what policies or goals the Canadian Federation of Students advocates for First Nations students, it spends a whole page on lobster fishing. Instead of reporting cuts to ESL (English as a second language) programs or the difficulties a resident "non-citizen" has in gaining access to student loan programs, it continues the overplayed B.C. illegal Chinese migrant controversy. Instead of informing students about the group most disadvantaged by the student loans program (single parents) or sharing how the CFS plans to lobby specifically for this under-represented group, it gives a superficial endorsement of a CAW national childcare campaign. Clearly there is a connection between national childcare and helping single parent students, but the author neglects to make that link and childcare is only one of many problems faced by single parent students. Problems the CFS is discouragingly silent about. Where are the stories about the much greater debt that a single parent student will face upon completion of his or her degree? Where are the scathing criticisms of Millennium Scholarship's inequitable effect on its recipients? While the average (single, no dependents) recipient of the Millennium Scholarship will receive substantial benefit, the scholarship's effect on a single parent's debt load is minuscule.

Troy may indeed be correct about my "fundamental lack of understanding" in regard to these issues. But what does that say about the CFS if, in my ignorance, I can think of more relevant and pressing student issues off the top of my head?

Certainly, Access 2000 is an improvement over the last two or three Day of Action campaigns. I was actually excited by the bit of literature that forewent the fuzzy, socialist wish-lists that are typical of the UVSS. Kudos to Michael Gardiner and those of like-mind for attempting to market the campaign to rally the greatest amount of student support. This literature focused on tangible issues like increased wait-lists and suggested reasonable goals like tuition freezes. It was a refreshing change from an approach that tends to ignore its target audience (all students) and focus on the narrow and often depthless ideological underpinnings of its creators. Unfortunately, this focus was not maintained. Hence, stories and fact sheets about lobster fishing, evil corporation syndrome (Pepsi?), and the World March of Women 2000 in lieu of specific, pressing student issues.

My original criticisms were meant to highlight a few ways the CFS hobbles its effectiveness as a national student organization. Its tendency to engage in what one student calls "activism for the sake of activism" robs the organization of its focus and diminishes its strength. The CFS does not need to give up its social justice approach; it simply must narrow its focus to relevant student issues and forego the random social justice cause-of-the-month.

If, however, those who run the CFS wish it to remain a mediocre umbrella organization for miscellaneous activism then they should take Troy's disappointing approach of dismissing critics as mere shit disturbers and fence sitters. After all, in an organization that suffers from chronic intellectual and political constipation, few things are more relieving and productive than a walking, talking laxative. And there are few better places to get perspective than the top of a fence.

Mark Redgwell

on the spot

BY PETER BOOTH

"Would these kind of images on cigarettes change your smoking habits ?"

see page 4 for story and image

joel black
4th year History

"It would encourage me to collect all the pictures. I'd make a mural."

isabelle martin
ESL student

"Yes, it would. It will make people react, especially young people. When you see you cannot not react."

mark russell
4th year Psychology

"I'm looking at them and I'm smoking. So it hasn't influenced me. I think they'll turn into collectors items."

rachel knudsen
4th year English

"No, probably not. I know everything about what smoking will do to me. I'll quit when I quit."

lani milstein
2nd year Theatre

"No, because I can't draw the relation between those images and me. I'm nowhere near that stage. My face hasn't begun to deform."

lonely hearts clubs?

finding something more in on-campus organizations

by Jessica Weirmier

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

Stephen Chappell and Michael Joyce finding strength in friendship through the Uvic Pride Collective.

Meeting people on campus is a difficult thing to do. How do you meet someone in a lecture hall with often more than a hundred students in it? It can be very frustrating when that hot little number with the green hair and thought-provoking questions for the professor might not sit next to you again for weeks. UVic graduate Liana Ruffolo spent four years taking classes and only ever went on a date once with a classmate. While that date didn't progress into a relationship, it is certainly indicative of many students' classroom-related dating experiences.

So if you're not hooking up in the classroom, how do you meet people on campus? One solution is finding a club or course union that interests you. This may save you from wistfully daydreaming about that green-haired classmate.

Ryan Stohmann, a third-year geography student and member of the UVic Caving Club believes that joining a club is an excellent way to meet people. Tara Brown, another caving club member in third-year biology says a lot of friendships develop the more people spend time together. These relationships grow stronger because "you put your life in [other cavers'] hands," she adds. Another bonus to the caving club is that you spend a lot of time looking at people's behinds. "Spending that much time in close circumstances, you get to know people really well," Stohmann adds.

Jesse Hohert and Brandie Wrigglesworth of the UVic Kayaking Club also believe that joining a club can increases a single student's chances of finding a relationship. "The potential is there. You know you have at least one common interest," says Wrigglesworth. Hohert adds that the club extends its social activities outside of kayaking by going out for beers on Friday evenings after practice. "The kayaking club also gets people together for weekend trips to Jordon River or Long Beach, which increases the potential of getting to know people really well."

Andrea Smith, co-ordinator of UVic's Pride Collective, believes the collective "reduces the potential of the heart-breaking straight crush." She adds, "the thing with being queer is that it's hard to meet people." The Pride Collective offers queer students a space to eat lunch, hang-out and meet people. Mark Nugent, a member of the Pride Collective, found the collective to be a good way to meet other queer students. "It's a space for people who haven't had contacts with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. [The collective] engenders relationships," added Nugent. In the Pride Collective, "you don't have to assert your queerness for people to think you're queer. You're more likely to find someone who would be interested in queer relationships than, say, the engineering department," says Smith. Michael Joyce, UVic Pride Collective's representative to the UVSS board of directors, says "relationships are a result [of the collective], it's not anything that we try and promote."

UVic's religious and cultural clubs offer students another way to meet people of similar interests.

Daphne Campbell, a UVic alumni and volunteer for Chai Victoria met her husband, another UVic student, through club involvement. "I think [joining a club] is one of the best ways to meet people. Many of the relationships that I know of were initiated by people meeting in clubs." Chai Victoria is open to UVic, Camosun and Royal Roads students, as well as the community. You don't even have to be Jewish to attend the club's events. "A club's environment lends itself to interaction. Clubs stress the social aspect more than anything else," Campbell adds. "Once class is over, you leave. It is possible to meet people in class, but generally speaking, clubs are better." Campbell's husband Richard, who is presently a UVic student, agrees. "In classes it's lightly social, but everyone has groups outside of class so you don't interact," he says. Not all class situations are isolating, however. "In clubs, course unions and small faculties it's easier to build a relationship when you see them in every class and have more time to ask and tell other people about yourself," adds Richard.

The UVic Catholic Students Association (CSA), according to member Helen Seaville, is a great way to meet people and find partners. "I didn't find other clubs as useful for meeting people." The CSA offers students opportunities to meet for mass on Sundays at the Holy Cross Church and Wednesday rendezvous at the campus chaplaincy. The CSA has social activities and organizes parties. "We're a network of support," says Seaville.

But you have to keep in mind that not everyone involved in on-campus clubs is looking for a relationship. Brad Fidler of the UVic fencing club says that any people he meets through his participation in clubs are "an unfortunate by-product of [his] quest for enlightenment." He agrees, however, that the potential to find a relationship exists. "People meet others through interaction, and joining a club is a subtle surrender of one's solitude to a group environment of others who have done the same." The club has around 35 members, about half men, half women. Fencing matches can be co-ed too. "Fencing could be considered a vertical expression of a horizontal desire between men and women," Fidler says.

The UVic Ballroom Dance Club, by all appearances, is a hot bed for those looking to cha cha their way into someone's heart. "We don't intend to sell this club as a way to form relationships, but you get to know people so well that you do," says Jane Rizhanovsky, the club's vice president, who notes there are at least a dozen couples presently dancing with the club. "One night after dancing, a group of [club members] got together at Boston Pizza and they drew a chart with everyone's name on it. They then drew arrows between relationships to see who dated whom. That chart was a mess. Just arrows everywhere," laughs Rizhanovsky.

"There's often a gung-ho keen crowd who go to all practices and events. They form long-lasting ties and relationships with each other," club president Andrew Sanderson adds. Rizhanovsky knows of at least three couples that started at the dance club and are now into their second or third years together. Some dance club couples, like past president John Bartle, have ended up married to their dance partners. "There are a lot of people coming into the club as couples as well. . . who want to do something social together," adds Sanderson.

Rizhanovsky thinks people make connections in ballroom dancing because in a beginner's class everyone is on an equal footing with each other. "No matter where you come from there's no discomfort because everyone is starting from the same place. That's what makes it so easy to socialize," she says. According to Sanderson, another reason for the club's number of successful relationships is the large diversity of students who are dancers. "We probably have someone from every faculty here," he says.

Another organization on campus is internationally infamous for finding relationships. AIESEC organizes international student internship exchanges and according to UVic AIESEC president Dominic Loiacono, at a recent conference in Edmonton four people revealed they got married because of AIESEC. Jamie Nesbitt is an affiliated member whose parents met through the organization. "Both his parents were presidents at the time. You could say he owes his existence to AIESEC," Loiacono added.

There's a popular saying amongst AIESEC members of the world: one in seven AIESEC members marries another AIESEC member. The one drawback, it seems, is the prevalence of long-distance relationships. People are meeting each other during short and intense conferences. Loiacono tells of an English man who met a woman in South Africa and visited her by attending a conference in Edmonton. The drawbacks are obvious. "It's hard because you see people possibly three times per year at the most – unless you go on a special trip to visit them. But it's an obstacle people will overcome if they really are into each other," says Loiacono.

The conferences present AIESEC members with ideal circumstances for forming relationships – if they are meant to be. "People are so passionate about different things. You can go into a room of 300 people and talk with anyone and dance with anyone. It's just unbelievable," added Loiacono.

Meeting people through clubs and course unions on campus seems to make sense. All it takes is finding some extra time in your schedule to get involved in the group of your choosing. Who knows? You just might find that green-haired cutie is already a member.

Martlet photo by Kristin Froneman

President of the UVic ballroom Dance club, Andrew Sanderson, and girlfriend Christabel Kerslake swingin' through life together.

photo contributed

Saving the park for the bears

A group of environmentalists are fighting construction in Lake Louise.

by Jorge Barrera

LAKE LOUISE, ALTA. (CUP) – Imagine you are Tom Wilson and you are standing alone, except for a Stoney Indian guide, surrounded by tall mountains casting shadows on clouds, crowning a landscape marked only by a sunset that pours down like wild honey between the valleys.

But all this is lost as you stand at the shores of the "Lake of Little Fishes." At your feet the water stirs pensively, murmuring, lost in itself. The water lies between the cupped palms of the mountains; the face of a glacier burns before it, its icy veins giving it life.

"I tell you sir, no man has been able to describe that picture painted for the Indians by the Great Spirit. I felt puny in body but glorified in spirit and soul for I was the first white man to look upon it." That's what Tom Wilson said about the view and called it Emerald Lake. The Stoney Indians called it "Lake of Little Fishes."

That was a long time ago and Tom Wilson's Emerald Lake has since been renamed Lake Louise. Every year thousands of tourists flock to its shores and gasp at its beauty. On the shores of Lake Louise stands one of the world's great hotels, famous for its front row seats of the lake. Chateau Lake Louise, a Canadian Pacific Hotel, has evolved over the last hundred years, starting as a small hiker's camp and expanding to a luxury hotel with 489 rooms. The next step in the evolution is a planned meeting centre to be built behind the Chateau on the site of an old boiler house. The proposed project includes a seven-story, 156,000 square-foot meeting facility for 700 people with six break out rooms, 81 guest rooms and a dining room for 250. This project has developers and conservation groups in Banff butting heads.

In 1998, conservationists launched a lawsuit against four parties: Sheila Copps, Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage, John Allard, the acting superintendent of Lake Louise, Parks Canada and Canadian Pacific Hotels. They charged the environmental assessment conducted by Chateau Lake Louise did not comply with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), because it did not review all the implications of development. Two of these conservation groups, Bear Society and Bow Valley Naturalists, both based in Banff National Park, are being represented by the Sierra Legal Defense Fund. Held over four days in July 1999, the hearing upheld the original Parks Canada decision. The Bear Society and the Bow Valley Naturalists have since launched an appeal with the Appeal Court of Canada. Both groups are now waiting for their court date while development rests in limbo.

Despite the controversy, Chateau Lake Louise maintains their commitment to preserving the environment. They point to the hotel's policy of using alternative energy sources to fuel 10 per cent of their building's power. Furthermore, the Hotel Association of Canada gives Chateau Lake Louise top marks for a great environmental record. The Chateau received a "five green-leaf eco-rating" – the environmental equivalent to five stars – for being a "world leader in hospitality and in implementing environmental strategies" in 1998. Chateau Lake Louise is only the second hotel in the country to receive the rating. Last year's recipient was the Hilton in Toronto, Ontario.

Janet Eger, head of communications at Chateau Lake Louise, firmly believes that the proposed expansion project has followed CEAA requirements.

"It has been a three-year, transparent, public process and ample opportunity has been given for public input," she said, adding that the resort has a vested interest in the preservation of the park. "If the park is destroyed, so too is our business."

Eger believes Chateau Lake Louise's environmental commitment is reflected in the project.

"There will be no negative impact on the environment. The courts saw that and Parks Canada saw that after reviewing our assessment," she said, adding that the Chateau has gone beyond the bare requirements outlined by the CEAA. "We have been reducing room rates below our 1995 level. The maximum capacity for a hotel in the park is 1,166 guests, we operate at a maximum of 1,126 guests. That's 20 bedrooms less."

On any given summer day, the parking lot at Lake Louise is crammed with cars and buses. The sun gleams dully off the metallic bodies and the air is thick with exhaust fumes. In the heart of the wilderness urban smells rise from the tar amid rumbling combustion engines and horns. Some days it's hard to see the lake for the people. And when you do see it its surface is littered with rental canoes. The concrete promenade is cluttered with bear bells and cameras. You can see the odd chip bag crumpled beneath a low shrub, but you won't see many animals.

Summer is a high stress time on the ecosystem around Lake Louise, in which a good portion of Canada's grizzly bear population call home, because of the heavy tourist load.

"The Lake Louise area is the most important area for the grizzly bear in the Bow Valley," said Reno Sommerhalder, wildlife photographer and wilderness guide who has done research on other large mammals like the spectacle bear and the woolly monkey in Peru. "The grizzly bear is an umbrella species – the top of the food chain, and because of this it is an indicator species. If you protect grizzly bear habitat you protect all the animals that exist on the lower rungs of the food chain."

Sommerhalder, who works for the Bear Society, doesn't believe Chateau Lake Louise's environmental assessment takes the big picture into account. He says the lake's ecosystem is an intricate web where if one strand snaps, the whole thing could unravel, but the affects might not be felt for a long time."We believe that they need to look at the cumulative impact on the area of Lake Louise," he said.

And Margot Venston, of the Sierra Legal Defense Fund, believes the outcome of the lawsuit hinges on the interpretation of the CEAA. "There needs to be a broader interpretation of the Act if we are serious about conserving the parks. They [Parks Canada and Chateau Lake Louise] failed to consider the impact of the entire proposal. They only assessed the impact of the meeting facilities, not the coming expansions of new staff housing and all those other things that are involved in expansion like water and electricity," she said.

Venston says the hotel's meeting facilities will attract more tourists year-round. "Right now the wildlife has fall, winter and spring to recuperate from the high stress season of summer," she said, pointing out that fall is important because of increased foraging, especially with the bear population, in preparation for hibernation. Spring is also important because the bears come out of hibernation and forage intensely to regain strength. "Further tourist traffic in these off-seasons could threaten the ecosystem," she said.

"If the federal government allows this type of expansion then they are kidding themselves," added photographer Sommerhalder. "Yellowstone is a good example of the direction a park should take. They are in a state of de-development, tearing buildings down."

Looking down from the top of Mt. Richardson, the highest peak in the Skokie Valley, Lake Louise lies below like a small jewel encrusted in a stone ring. With every change in cloud and sun the lake flickers, in tune with the rhythm of the valley, sky and earth. A pile of stones stands at the highest point of Mt. Richardson. A small slot had been fashioned on the side of the stone monument. Inside a plastic cylinder, is a wrinkled piece of paper with the names of hikers who have climbed to the top. One hiker in shaky letters has written "If there be a heaven on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this."

image contributed

Festival highlights indie talent

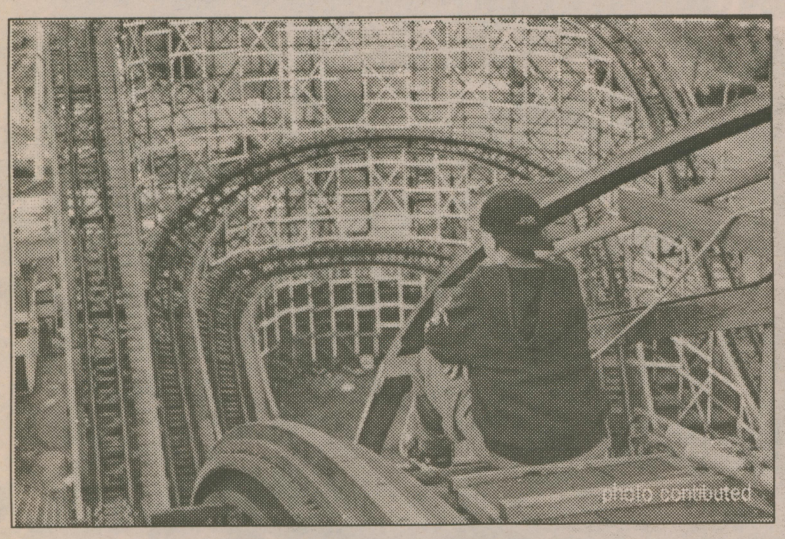


photo contributed

There's been a lot of hype in this city over a couple of films that are running in the Victoria International Film and Video Festival. Here is a list, for you loyal *Martlet* readers, of several that deserve much more attention than they have been getting elsewhere. One other thing to note, just because the word "independant" or "Canadian" appears in front of a movie or festival, does not mean that it isn't of the highest quality. All of the films so far have been great, and some may even be brilliant.

BY KATHERINE DODDS

Director Mark Achbar (of Manufacturing Consent fame) describes his latest film Two Brides and a Scalpel as "the classic tale of boy meets girl boy, boy marries girl, boy becomes girl." In 1997 when his lesbian neighbour Linda announced her upcoming marriage to Georgie, a heavy equipment operator, father of two and transsexual in transition, Achbar smelled a story in the making. Inspired by the BBC Video Diary series, he gave Linda and Georgie a high 8 camera. And Georgie and Linda filmed themselves making history. At the time of the wedding Georgie was still biologically a male, but shortly after she had her gender reassigned surgically and the couple became, technically, Canada's first legally married lesbians.

While their footage was decidedly rough, what Georgie and Linda intimately exposed to the world about their relationship, its highs and its lows, is something that the best cinematographer in the world would not have access to. And after two years and 60 hours of home movies a documentary was born. What Achbar and editor Jennifer Abbott (*A Cow at My Table*) accomplished was the marriage of raw storytelling and post-production prowess. Their humourous layering of text and graphics along with footage from Doris Wishman's 1978 sexploitation classic film *Let me Die a Woman* contextualizes the personal with the political while avoiding the heavy hand. And in an anti-auteur move Achbar gave the couple veto power over what footage he put in the film.

The juicy promises of a full-on frontal sex change may draw in the gender voyeurs, the film comes with a warning about scenes of graphic surgery, but what emerges is a surprisingly normal tale of two extraordinary folks trying to have their own crack at tradition. While it will appeal to the lesbian/gay/transgendered audience, its message is universal: Any breed of commitment takes bravery. In the end the film made me, a confirmed hard-boiled anti-romantic, less cynical about love.

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

Canadian director, Scott Smith has decided to take on the subject of teen angst in his first feature film *Rollercoaster*. I am not alluding though, in any way, to any of the teeny-crap that has been coming out of Hollywood as of late.

Rollercoaster is an honest portrayal (too played out?) of five kids who live together in a group home, and take the day off to be with their friends while two of them plan to commit suicide.

The youngest of the kids, Justin (played by Brent Glenen), is brilliantly written and acted as the most observant and honest character of the group. Glenen captures Justin's few lines and many close-ups in a way very few young, first-time actors have before him. Look for Courtney local, Brendan Fletcher (*The Five Senses* and *Little Criminals*), in his role as Stick, the most diversely written character of the lot and the most angry, for good reason.

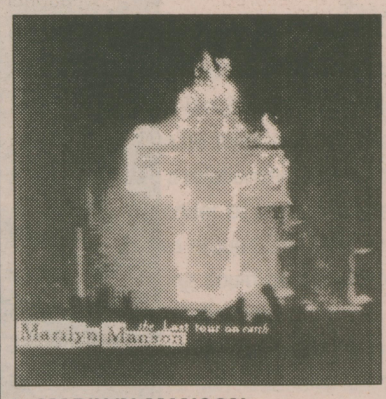
This film was true to the spirit of its theme. Absolutely no shiny and smiling kids, and the focus stayed on the characters rather than constantly shifting to drugs or sex, although there is some of each.

BY JULLIET LAMMERS

The Last Drawing of Canneletto is an exploration of a painting of the musicians in the ducal church of St. Marc by Cannaletto. The director has used a computer, light and shadows, and clay figurines to create three dimensions, allowing the viewer to wander through the painting. Moving sunlight and obtuse camera angles also create depth and motion, leading the viewer into areas that otherwise remain undiscovered in two-dimensional form. The dramatic faces and body language of the clay figurines, accompanied by choir music create the feeling of an old European cathedral. The concept of venturing into a painting is what makes this film interesting. Director Cameron McNall has succeeded in taking the viewer to another time and space.

Check Cinecenta or go to www.coastnet.com/~cinevic for more info.

Marylin Manson and some of the best in black metal



MARILYN MANSON
The Last tour on earth
NOTHING Records

BY DAVID BROWN

By November I had already started to choke on all the millennium hype. As the date grew closer, it seemed every company in existence had something to say about Y2K. The hysteria even seeped into the pop culture scene with the brilliantly conceived Willennium album.

That's not to say Will Smith was the only quasi-artist out there cashing in on the End Times. Among others (I'm just sure there are several), Marilyn Manson put out his very own live album in accordance with selling out (a little bit more) in time for New Year's.

The motive for producing this cd is as questionable as the content. If you listen carefully, you can sometimes tell the difference from one song to the next. Not a lot different than previous albums I guess. Most of the songs are recycled – new material sparingly employs creativity.

But the photography of the cd is nice. There is a pretty cross burning on the front and lots of pictures of Marilyn in strange positions (in case you forgot what he looks like or how strange he is).

At this point I start wondering what Marilyn was thinking. There's the possibility he actually felt he had good enough material to put to disk. Or maybe he felt he should take a part in the millennium craze in case Armageddon was actually around the corner.

And then there's drug money. Drug money definitely could have been a motive, and the band would have needed plenty of blow to bring in the big 2000. So how quickly do crazy satanic cokeheads run out of cash?

Various Artists
Blackened 4
Metal Blade Records

BY BYRON PLANT
(nacl@mailtag.com)

Well in the tradition of its predecessors, *Blackened 4* came out earlier this year, representing a fine cross section of what's new in the black metal scene. Two full cd's of various artists, *Blackened 4* covers lots of representative ground, featuring artists from Emperor to Opeth to Witchery.

Compilations, are a fine way to sample from a pool of bands which is quickly growing in number. I can't keep track of them all. Of course, what makes it worse is the fact that black metal cds are from smaller labels and generally cost up to twice as much as that Chris Gaines cd you wanted. With these compilations, imagine yourself clutching a little cup and spoon while standing in front of an ice cream fridge full of flavours like Odium, Thorns, and Diabolical Masquerade. Anyway, the record succeeds more than my lame analogy does.

This Blackened release interested me in particular as it shows black metal probing into new directions. It pains me to say this, but I can hear 80s metal and a dash of death metal. I know most corpse-painted, hardcore, black metalers would rather go to a Catholic baptism than admit that they had anything to do with either of these genres, but the influences are undoubtedly there. Don't believe me? Well, compare the differences between the 1991 *Blackened 1* to 1999's *Blackened 4*. What is coming out now is far from the keyboard laden blast beats of the early 90s, which is not necessarily a bad thing. So if you are into Black metal, and want a couple nice cds to help tuck you into bed, or if you are a newbie and want to say "hail" to someone, check this release out.

The upside: Myrkskog, Primordial, Thorns, Opeth.

The downside: Witchery, Peccatum (sorry, it ain't Emperor), and Opeth.

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Sylvia appeals to dog owners and critics alike

BY COLIN PLANT

Sylvia is a comedy about a marriage and a dog. Featuring national stars Rod Beattie and Martha Henry, the production becomes a lot more than a predictable comedy. As a result of their strong acting abilities, we get a moving depiction of a couple dealing with their mid-life crises.

After 22 years of living in the suburbs raising children, Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan. Greg's career as a financial trader is winding down, while Kate's career, as a public school English teacher, is beginning to offer her more opportunities. One day Greg brings home a dog named Sylvia that he found in the park. A street-smart mixture of lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. He wants to keep her, she does not.

A.R. Gurney is one of the most prolific and produced playwrights in America. His work focuses primarily on the issues and realities of middle-class American life (see WASP) and has been produced on international theatre stages for more than 30 years. Although this play is meant to be a comedic romp, the dramatic depth and credibility of its two leads make the production richer and fuller than the simple comedy is.

What makes the script unique and humourous is the decision to have the dog played by a human who speaks. Liza Balkan – winner of the Dora Mavor Moore best actress award in 1997 – plays the lovable mutt with comedic flair. Her physicality is delightful and everyone in the audience roared as she captured the various nuances that man's best friend is known for. Indeed, if nothing else, the play is a huge success in depicting just what a dog might say about things such as cats, sex and other dogs.

Rod Beattie as the ultimate dog-lover is expectedly solid. He doesn't have any large emotional stretches until the end of the play, but Beattie is a pillar of consistency throughout the show. He portrays Greg's self-absorption and accompanying mid-life crisis with admirable skill. Yet, we never see him pulling focus away from his co-actor Balkan. Rather, the two actors work together like old comedic partners.

Martha Henry has the difficult job of playing adorable Sylvia's nemesis yet still conveying the subtextual fact that her attitude is right and everything she says is absolutely true. Unlike her husband she has made their empty nest an opportunity to become a teacher of Shakespeare to inner-city kids, successfully enough to snag a grant to study teaching techniques in England; a country that quarantines immigrant mutts for six months.

In this production, her opposition to Sylvia is not brushed off as anti-dog prejudice, but elevated to honest-antagonist status. Henry's ability to capture the stage was a delight. My only wish was that the material Henry had tackled contained more meat for her to sink her teeth into. Hopefully she'll return to the Belfry again soon.

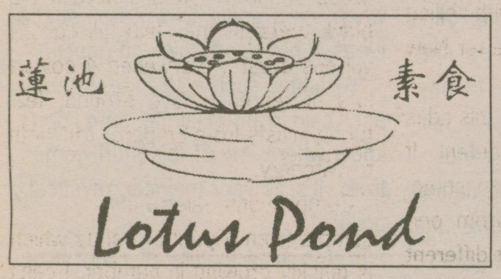
Martha Henry, Rod Beattie and Liza Balkan in *Sylvia*.

photo submitted

Allan Zinyk triumphantly plays three character roles in the production. From macho dog owner to the couple's alcoholic friend, Phyllis, to the asexually-dressed Leslie, Zinyk has a wonderful sense of comedic timing and adds much to the play.

Director Douglas Beattie has created a solid production that wisely shows off its two greatest stars, while maintaining our interest in a story that should appeal to anyone who has ever owned a dog.

Lotus Pond pleases even the pickiest of palettes



BY MEESHA CHAN

I am a food princess. Read this to mean I am one of those ask-a-thousand-questions customers who looks at the food presented to her with distrust, and then oh-so-carefully takes the first bite. That is, after digging around to check for any semblance of meat. Yes, I am also a vegetarian princess.

My first trip to Lotus Pond Vegetarian Restaurant, located at 617 Johnson Street, was complete with my usual restaurant trepidation. I'm hungry. Will it be disgusting? Disappointing? Can I trust it? But the fact that the sign claims both Buddhist and vegan the disappointment could only be minimal – at least they couldn't accidentally fry it next to prawns.

That was over 100 trips to the restaurant and a revamped, expanded menu ago. The Lotus Pond is an oasis.

There is pretty much something for everyone, except those raw vegetable or fruit people. There are at least 12 different soups – from their "famous" hot and sour soup, to wor wonton soup, to my favourite mixed vegetables tofu noodle soup. Not only do you have a huge list to choose from, you can also add the noodle (udon, chow mein, rice vermicelli or rice board noodle) of your choice to the soup.

For those stubborn 'I will shrivel and die without meat' people, you can explore your sense of adventure with any of Lotus Pond's 'meat' dishes – mock veggie goose cold cut, mock salmon in Peking sauce (carrot juice for colour and seaweed for skin), lemon mock chicken, pineapple mock chicken balls or pepper steak (special gluten for the texture).

For people looking for more 'traditional' Chinese food, try the sweet and sour soya balls or sweet and sour crispy delight. I don't even like sweet and sour dishes, but the crispy bits of gluten are, well, fucking delightful.

I think the best way to experience Lotus Pond is to go with a large group of people (they take reservations) with differing tastes and order a variety of dishes.

As if the regular menu was not enough, Lotus Pond also offers a self-serve vegan buffet and a dim sum menu that's available until 5 p.m. Lotus Pond's prices are reasonable – you will be stuffed for about $10. The staff and atmosphere are exceedingly friendly, the decor is sparse (in this case it doesn't matter, the food absolutely exceeds the need for decoration), they give Vancouver Island Vegetarian Association members a 10 per cent discount, and Lotus Pond doubles as stress management – the food actually calms you. And just one word of advice: don't go when you are too hungry, Lotus Pond has become very popular, so expect a lineup.

Lotus Pond Vegetarian Restaurant, 617 Johnson Street, open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed Mondays. Call 380-9293 for reservations or for pick up/delivery.

Martlet Picks:

To please a large, hungry group order the following.

To start: mouth-watering pot stickers, served with a vinegared soy sauce and fried chili peppers, any one or two of their soups.

Main meal: sweet and sour crispy delight, sautéed green beans with pickled cabbage, mixed vegetables tofu in black bean sauce chow mein, three kinds of mushroom taro root vegetable hot pot (wheat-free), lily bulb delight (pan-fried fresh lily bulbs with lotus root, mushrooms, and snow peas) and Szechuan ginger B (as the menu professes, it's already a house favourite). Complete this order with a couple of bowls of healthy house brown rice.

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Duo takes comedy to a new level

Darren and Mo hammin' it up for the lens.

image contributed

BY SCOTT ROBERTS

Darren and Mo of the Comedy network have created one of the funniest new shows on with no money or training at all.

The concept is a pretty simple one: Two guys with a video camera walk around the streets (primarily in Toronto) harrassing celebrities.

The project has been in the making for three years now, since Mo and Darren (the show's two stars) met at a comedy club in Toronto. "We were both doing regular shows at Yuk-Yuks in Toronto when we hooked up," Mo reminisces. A year later they got the chance to do their own show on Roger's community cable channel in Toronto.

"We literally had no budget. Just the two of us and a camera," Darren says. So they hit the streets and started interrogating whomever they could find. The show took on a life of its own from there. *Buzz* soon had a cult following of people all over the Toronto area. It's a pretty original concept and "it's all in the name of fun," Mo laughs.

When asked why he's laughing Mo responds, "I was just thinking about one of the characters we do in the show, the Ku Klux Clown."

"What?"

"Yeah, the Ku Klux Clown. He's a clown from the Klan."

"We said it's all in the name of fun," Darren says, "but it's also quite edgy."

Judging by some of the "interrogations" that will air in the first show, it looks like it will stay true to form.

The highlight of the first episode is rumoured to be an interview with Snow, in which Mo asks him to "explain exactly what he's saying in the chorus of "The Informer" (his first single). "And we get him to sing it on camera for us," Mo laughs yet again.

The first episode also featured interviews with Geri Haliwell, Howie Mandell, and an in depth interrogation of a drag queen and her method of "tucking."

Buzz has gotten so big in Toronto that Mo and Darren now get invitations to all the big celebrity parties. "It's great for us. We get so much material."

However, you shouldn't worry that the best material may already be gone. Future episodes include an interview with Sable (of WWF fame) plugging her Playboy appearance, a character called Country Mo Dee (think Kool Mo Dee), and a contest for the loyal fans in which one lucky Buzz enthusiast will get to wrestle Darren or Mo in front of 40,000 fans at the next WWF event in Toronto.

The only thing that they may not be able to provide is the fulfilment of Mo's ultimate dream, "I want to interview Michael Jackson." Keep dreamin' Mo, you can do anything.

Buzz airs Monday nights at 9:00 on the Comedy Network.

Brant comes to UVic

BY CARMEL ECKER

Beth Brant, an award-winning Mohawk writer is at the university this week as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Women's Studies department.

Brant's lecture title, "Writing as Witness," is also the title of her 1994 book, a collection of essays in which she addresses issues that have affected her life, such as racism, sexism and colonialism.

Brant read the essay "Writing Life," in which she discusses the difficulties of writing and the memories of her family in the context of baking bread.

Brant writes predominantly about women because their lives are interesting, because she's a woman and because she's a feminist.

"My writing is informed by my politics," she said. "There is another way of looking at things other than the colonizer's way."

Brant didn't begin writing until she was 40-years-old, when she had a vision of an eagle telling her to write. She began writing when she got home that day and was published within the year.

Unfortunately, Brant's writing cannot support her financially, so she works at a veterinary office to pay her bills, which does not leave her with much time or energy to write.

Brant said she feels that native writing in Canada is quite strong, but she would like to see it get bigger.

"I would like to see more publishers taking a risk."

UVic native writing student William George, who's been published in several anthologies, said there's been a body of work developing over the last few decades. "I know it's growing," he said.

Right now, Canada only has two main native publishing companies that deal in trade book publishing (books that are sold in stores): Theytus Books in B.C. and Pemmican Press in Manitoba.

Although there are several small native-owned companies that publish native work, they produce more specialized books, such as educational literature for schools.

Whereas Brant said she was lucky there were people who wanted to publish her when she started writing in 1981, George sees a lot of positive opportunities for himself as a young native writer.

Sue MacLean, managing editor of Pemmican Press, said that although her company can only publish four or five new books each year, many new writers are emerging and book sales are increasing.

Although Brant has thoughtout many future projects, she's not sure when she's going to write all of the ideas in her head down on paper.

"Writing is such a strange, strange act," said Brant. "Half the time I don't know where any of this stuff comes from. It's all very magical, mystical, political."

Brant's final lecture at UVic is on Feb. 4 at 8:30 p.m. at David Lam Auditorium.

Bob Marley Giveaway

win

The Martlet has one Bob Marley: *Songs of Freedom: four* cd box set to give away as well as five secondary prizes consisting of the new Bob Marley tribute album *Chant Down Babylon*, with remixes by Black Thought, Guru and Rakim. Come down to *the Martlet* office (SUB B011) and pick them up. First six people to come in to the office win.

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Fri	$5.99 Steak Dinner	Full Appy Menu	
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Sun	$8.99 Prime Rib	$4.99 Spaghetti Dinner	

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sponsored by cfuv, the martlet, on the fringe, uvic pride, uvss women's centre, and vertigo

Men's b-ball take the good and bad

BY MAYA SAMSON

You take the good, you take the bad.

You take 'em both and there you have the play of the Vikes' men's basketball team during this weekend's split.

Coming off of a two game series in Alberta last weekend where the team was served up a double helping of the bad, the men had to come up with the good stuff against UBC in order to contend in Canada West.

However, Saturday was a different story. Saturday the Vikes could do no wrong.

When describing Saturday's action, the coach who normally doesn't mince words couldn't stop with the great game metaphors. Something about shining lights and firing guns and roaring... Vikings? Vetrie obviously enjoyed the game.

The team played with confidence and took an early lead of 17 points in the first quarter. They finished their shots early and played hard the entire game, eventually winning with a score of 77-72.

"It was a great team effort to bounce back to play a good game. That's tough to do against UBC."

But the Vikes evidently needed to learn more about the facts of life before they could turn things around because Friday night's game was downright ugly.

In short, the team did not shoot, pass, or run very well.

Coach Guy Vetrie was equally blunt, "[The game] was tough going early on and it just got worse from there."

They had problems making uncontested shots and struggled at the line missing 20 free throws. The final score was 82-66 for the Thunderbirds. Enough said.

This victory ended the Vikes' three game losing streak and by no coincidence guard Ali Wilmott contributed 24 points ending his three game scoring slump.

Forward Etienne Orr-Ewing also played great, scoring 20 points.

Vetrie, however, was pleased with everyone: "It was a great team effort to bounce back to play a good game. That's tough to do against UBC."

Women's b-ball sweep up at UBC

BY DENA VANDALFSEN

The women's basketball team had a weekend of nail-biting close calls at the hands of a tough UBC team.

More than once it looked like the nationally number seven ranked Thunderbirds might topple our Vikes, who have been at the peak of the national top 10 list almost all season, but the women pulled through.

Friday night the Vikes women sunk key foul shots in the final minute of Canada West action in the War Memorial Gym to win 70-67.

In the final quarter, UBC's top player, Jessica Mills fouled-out and Lindsay Anderson, Janet McLachlan and Kim Johnson took to the line and sunk the free throws the Vikes needed to pull away.

"It was an incredible game," said head Coach Kathy Shields. "It was close all the way. The girls hit their shots from the line and that was the difference."

Leading the Vikes with 15 points each were McLachlan and Johnson. Anderson had 10 and Lindsay Brooke and Megan Dalziel each added 10 points to the Vikes cause.

On Saturday night the Vikes secured a 54-50 victory over UBC.

"We expected UBC to be tough. We stepped up and played well down the stretch," said Shields. "It wasn't one of our best games, but we did what we had to for the win."

Brooke led the Vikes with 15 points, while Anderson had 12 and Johnson added another 10.

The women improved their record to 16-2. They need a single win against the Saskatchewan Huskies to clinch top spot in the Canada West division and home court advantage through the playoffs.

This weekend the Vikes get a break before playing their last games of the regular season.

Fans will see both men's and women's teams in action against the Saskatchewan Huskies in McKinnon Gym Feb. 11 and 12.

Vikes rugby on the prowl

Vikes past and present collide last weekend at Centennial Stadium. The current Vikes defeated the UVic alumni squad 40-17 in memory of Courtney Walls.

Martlet photo by Judith Spancken

BY STEVE HUTCHINGS

With one eye fixed on their game and the other on their opponents, the UVic Mens' Varsity Team is cautiously steamrolling through the British Columbia Union Rugby First Division.

The Vikes solidified their position at the top of Victoria's standings with an impressive 29 - 7 win over the Oak Bay Castaways at Wallace Field on Saturday.

"We've only lost one game this season so we're kind of used to winning. I think that reflected today," said Captain Mark Lawson. "We didn't come out too hard in the beginning of the game and that hurt us, but we brought it together in the second half."

Lawson scored the only try of the first half and made good on the conversion. Mike Danskin, Will Newman, Tom Larisch and Nick Brown each scored tries as the Vikes' back line powered a charge in a second half characterized with second chances and several shoving incidents.

"Our fire power is in the back line, so we try to get the ball to them as quickly as we can," said Brown.

"I'd say the man to match today was [scrum-half] Gareth Ronald Jones. He dealt with some sloppy balls from the forwards and made a game of it," said Lawson.

We've only lost one game this season. We're kind of used to winning.

Although happy with the win, the team admits that plenty must be done in preparation for next Saturday's game against the Pacific Pride – a team comprised of some of Canada's best players under the age of 23.

"We're working on our game for next week," said Brown. "They're a lot bigger pack and a very strong team, so we can't afford to give them any snuffs. It'll be a really good match."

"Pacific Pride will be a pretty intense game," confirms head coach Doug Tate.

The Vikes will then head to California to play NCAA Teams from Stanford, U.C. Davis and Berkely, where they are looking to avenge an earlier loss to their traditional rivals.

"Berkeley really gave us a rough go last time we were down there," said Lawson.

Ultimately, the team would like to return from California and win the First Division Championship. The First Division is comprised of a strong contingency of teams from Victoria, Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. A finish among the top six teams in the division would promote the Vikes to the Premier League, placing them among the best teams in the province.

"It's difficult for our guys because most of us are finishing school and getting summer jobs right around playoff time, so we're going to have to stick around," said Lawson. "But the playoffs are within our sights, and we can focus on that after these next few games."

The Vikes play the Pacific Pride on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 1:00 pm at Wallace Field.

Vikes middle distance results

Sled Dog Indoor
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Men's Results

Junior 600m Finals
Gold - Rob Connors
Open 600m Finals
6th - Jason Craig
Junior 1000m Finals
Gold - Craig Babiuk
Junior 1500m Finals
Gold - Craig Babiuk
Open 1000m Finals
Gold - Paul Morgan
9th - Mark Creery
Open 1500m Finals
Bronze - Bruno Mazzotta
Open 3000m Finals
5th - Kris Swanson
4x800m team relay - Bronze

Women's Results

Open 1500m Finals
Gold - Wendy Cocksedge
Bronze - Stephanie Mills
Open 3000m Finals
Gold - Brandi Heisterman
4th - Andria Dyck
Open 600m Finals
8th - Sara MacKenzie

VIKES Athletics
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
VIKES ACTION
Rowing Monster Erg
Sunday February 6 – 9am to 5pm
McKinnon Gym
721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes

Aoibhinn Grimes on the field hockey fast track

BY MARISA CROCKETT

With a name like Aoibhinn, which is pronounced Ay-veen and means fair radiance, and the talent she possesses, it is hard to overlook Aoibhinn Grimes.

"It's a mouthful," she says with a laugh.

The fifth-year centre-forward Vikes field hockey player is calm and ready to answer my volley of questions, even though I confessed to being a first-time interviewer.

Grimes was athletic at a young age, and grew up in an athletic family. Her parents were both born in Dublin, Ireland, but chose to begin a family in Canada. Aoibhinn was born in Kelowna and has two brothers and a sister, all of whom play field hockey too.

Aoibhinn plays field hockey with her sister, Anna, on the Vikes women's team, while one of her brothers, Rich, plays on the Vikes men's team. Her younger brother is in high school and already plays in the men's league.

Her mother, who with friends in Duncan began the Grasshopper field hockey program for children, seems to be the field hockey inspiration in the family. "She played field hockey in high school," Aoibhinn says.

Over the past four years, Aoibhinn has amassed an impressive field hockey résumé. She was selected to the Junior National side in 1996, and was selected to both the junior and senior teams the following year.

During the summer of 1997, she travelled to Chile for the junior World Cup qualifier, then to Zimbabwe one month later for the senior qualifier.

"It's been like a snowball thing for her," Beecroft said. "At times she gets exhausted. She's very lucky she hasn't been injured."

Aoibhinn and Anna were both in Holland when it hosted the World Cup in 1998. Her UVic head coach Lynne Beecroft said that Aoibhinn played for club field hockey in Holland.

National teamer Aoibhinn Grimes at home on the field hockey pitch.

photo submitted

"She wanted to train and play against tough competition," Beecroft said. "Every game there is like a CIAU final."

While in Holland, she and her sister lived with 10 other people, all of whom did not play field hockey. "It was definitely interesting," she said with a wry grin.

She has already been re-selected for the national team this year and looks forward to 10 days of training in San Diego later this semester.

And while the CIAU schedule is finished, the university field hockey season isn't over. The Vikes still have indoor club hockey, and practise with the Victoria league every Wednesday night.

With a full course load and constant field hockey training, Aoibhinn still finds the time to meet with her teammates at the SUB to hang out outside of practising.

"The girls on the team are super cool," Aoibhinn says with a huge smile.

This is Aoibhinn's last year of eligibility for field hockey, and as a Kinesiology student, she is looking forward to continuing her studies in medicine at UBC. Because her family is both in Victoria and Duncan, Aoibhinn would like to finish her studies close to home.

"I'd like to stay on the West Coast," she said. "I can't imagine myself anywhere else."

Sports Call

BY JASPER ANSON

Last week, the Federal Government made a surprise appearance on the ice when Industry Minister John Manley proposed a tax break designed to aid Canada's six waning NHL teams. Under this plan, each team would receive between $3 and $4 million a year until the league's collective bargaining agreement expires after the 2003-2004 season.

Just days later, Manley returned to the podium once again, this time to deep-six the plan due to the flood of complaints he had received from the public. It was clear that most Canadians did not support his proposal, so the federal government did the unthinkable and sided with the people!

All things being equal, Manley's final decision was the right one. Here's why:

Simply put, pro sports is a business. Guts, glory, stamina, yes, they're part of a winning team, but what makes a winning franchise is the right mix of salary structure, luxury suites, ticket sales and profit.

This might make owners out to be greedy, but are they? They're allowed to want to make a profit. It is possible to make money and care about the livelihood of your business at the same time, but that's not the main point here. Financial responsibility is the key.

If the NHL is a business, why should the government bail them out if they aren't running their business properly? Example: the Vancouver Canucks. Canucks G.M. Brian Burke bitched about about how easy it would be to move the team (he claimed he could do it in a phone call) and how the Canucks were going to lose more than $20 million this year.

Brian, save yourself the trip to your pocket. Here's a quarter for the phone, now get lost. If the Canucks weren't spending $6 million a year on aging has-been Mark Messier, a third of their debt would be cut and they would probably have the same win-loss record.

The NHL needs to take responsibility for its salary structure and propose revenue sharing amongst its teams and convince the players to take on a salary cap. Canadian teams will not be the only ones to fold if players like Messier ask for the moon and get the galaxy. Salaries are killing sports, but this is not the government's responsibility.

Considering that a $3 million subsidy for the Canucks would only cover half of Messier's yearly salary, the government plan would hardly have made a difference, anyways. If Manley had stuck to his plan, the domino effect would have been deadly as the champion of poor sports management, the Canadian Football League, would have been next on the wish list with the hapless Vancouver Grizzlies waiting their turn.

The NHL is not "the coolest game on Earth" that it claims to be. Hockey is, and it can be found in any rink. Junior hockey can be just as exciting as the NHL if we give it a chance. It may not have the deepest talent pool, but there are a lot fewer egos swimming around.

Suppose for a moment that Canada did lose its NHL teams. What exactly are we losing? Three things come to mind: High ticket prices, inconsistent players and ridiculously over-priced (and watered-down) beer. Some might say these are staples of the game, but remember folks, it is just a game. We might lose the teams, but we're not losing hockey.

Most university-age fans can't even afford to go to one game a year because the franchises have priced their younger fans out of the market. Why should NHL teams get a tax break when their fans bust their asses off at their respective jobs to make ends meet? Where's our tax cut?

The NHL is not the "coolest game on Earth" that it claims to be. Hockey is, and it can be found in any rink. Junior hockey can be as exciting as the NHL if we give it a chance. It may not have the deepest talent pool, but there are a lot fewer egos swimming around.

If the government wants to help sports in this country, they can subsidize youth hockey programs and if they still feel that they have $20 million to throw around, why not give it to sectors that could use the money (employment, education and health care come to mind)? If the NHL wants to leave Canada, let it leave! Hockey won't go with it.

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on-campus

Jesus??? February 2 – 5 Paul Chamberlain provides a lecture series – All welcome. **Thursday 3, 2:30 p.m.** "Spirituality," Cle A215; **at 7:00 p.m.** "Spirituality 2," HSD A240. **Friday 4, 2:30 p.m.** "Historical Jesus," Elliot 160; **at 7:00 p.m.** "Do all roads lead to God?" SUB upper lounge.

Taber Shooting – Forgiveness. Rev. Dale Lang, father of Jason Lang, will share his personal struggle of his son's murder and the alienation of youth in our culture. Following the events of Columbine and Taber, Rev. Lang shares his insights into his current situation and tells of his hope and spiritual strength to forgive. **Thursday, February 3 at 12:30 p.m.** The Michéle Pujol room in the SUB.

The Circle K club meets **every Wednesday**, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in CLE C112. Come out and join us. Low commitment & volunteer projects. For more info contact rvcolson@uvic.ca

Feel like bustin' out? Come to a benefit concert with Lift, M.A.S. and the Buttless Chaps, **Wednesday February 9**, at Vertigo! Proceeds go to the Students for a Free Tibet and the Environmental Studies Students Association. $5 in advance (at SUB info booth) $6 at the door/$5 with non-perishable food item. Show starts at 9:00 p.m.

The Economics Course Union is having a social on **February 11 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Grad Lounge. This is a great chance for economic students and faculty to meet! For more info e-mail erick@uvic.ca

Drop-in peer-based support group for female survivors of sexualized violence. Meets **Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at our Sexual Assault Centre (SUB B027) starting **February 7.** Drop in or call 472-4388 for more information.

off-campus

Yes! Another Family Gathering: featuring A Particular Wave, Gigglebush and D.J. Wyld. **Friday, February 11**. Potluck dinner for early birds – doors open at **8:00 p.m.** At Velox: 3957 Gordon Head Rd. Get tickets in advance ($7, or $10 at the door, $9 for students) Call 414-3180.

Reading break Effective Cycling courses available. CanBike II Effective Cycling: **February 19 and 21-23**, 2000. CanBike Effective Cycling Instructor's Upgrade **February 26 and 27**. The UVic Bicycle Users Committee recommends these courses offered by CanBike instructor Ray Hall. For more information, see the Coming Events section at web.uvic.ca/uvbikes or phone Ray at 380-0172.

Diotima Philosophy Society. Explore diverse philosophical orientations, Western and Eastern. Improve thinking, awareness, and mediating skills. All levels. **Mondays 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.** Room 213, 932 Balmoral. $3. 595-5097.

announcements

Valentine's Bash – "An Evening with Friends." UVic Music Students' Society presents an evening of desserts and live music featuring the S-C String Quartet and UVic's Cuban music group, Los Habañeros. The festivities begin at 7:00 p.m. on **Sunday, February 13** at St. Aidan's Church (3703 St. Aidan St.) Proceeds go toward maintenance of the UVic music facilities. Tickets can be bought at the door for $6/person, or bring a friend and it's $10 for two.

Summer camp counselors on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic and fun-loving students as counselors in all team sports, including roller hockey and lacrosse, all individual sports, such as tennis and golf, waterfront and pool activities and specialty activities, including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry and radio. Great salaries, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. **June 17 to August 16**. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information contact www.campmkn.com or 1-800-753-9118 (for boys' camp) or www.danbee.com or 1-800-392-3752 (for girls' camp).

Recovering from a breakup? You might be interested in participating in a research study that I am conducting to determine the effectiveness of a short-term journal writing program for individuals who are recovering from romantic relationship loss. For more information, please contact Jessica Altrows at 370-0345 or e-mail me with your name and telephone number at jaltrows@uvic.ca

The Fat Discussion Group for Women is a new group being run through the UVic Women's Centre. For more information, please e-mail steph_is_me@yahoo.ca or call the Women's Centre 721-8353. Note: this is not a diet or therapy group!

Underwater basket weaving club: sign up through e-mail – picimamma@hotmail.com Support the Madagascarian arts!

volunteers

A volunteer publicity coordinator is needed for the Victoria School of Writing Society. This volunteer will work with the school's publicity committee. Experience is not necessary. This is an ideal opportunity for interested volunteers to learn how to run a publicity campaign. Come out and get involved in Victoria's writing community. Interested? Questions? Call Jessica at 477-7817.

UVic Peer Helping. Volunteer with a group of students who share interests in personal growth, helping others and embracing diversity. Peer helpers are trained to provide confidential peer counseling, information and referral to drop-in clients. Interested? Come to our volunteer information sessions **February 7 - 11, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** (Wednesday 12:30 - 1:30) in SUB B110A, or drop into the Peer Helping Office SUB B106.

getaways

Cusheon Lake Resort. Salt Spring Island Getaway. **St. Valentine's,** weekends, reading-breaks, holidays. Romance, study, relax – $89/night. Call (250) 537-9629 or visit saltspring.com/cusheonlake

tutors

The Thinkery: Tutoring for English/humanities $20/hr. Excelling in the Arts. $18 (M.A. graduate, Wagner Fellow ('95), author). Proofreading, mentorial service, etc. Phone 595-8438 or fax 595-8401.

A – ffect Tutoring: Philosophy, English, education. $15/hour. Call Carlos 881-8784.

help wanted

Get on the Fast Track. Be your own boss and set your own hours. Call now! (toll free 24 hour message) 1-877-269-7615 – Excel Canada Independant Representative.

Suite Moves (an equal opportunity employer) is looking for part-time movers to assist in a student-run moving service. Enthusiasm and flexible hours essential. Send simple resume to 982 Annie St. Victoria, B.C. V8X 3E9

accommodations

Suite for rent: Fairfield, bachelor suite available in quiet character duplex. Garden access. Suits one non-smoker, preferably female. $550/mo. inclusive. Available immediately. Call Patricia at 381-1615.

services

Tax preparation with pick-up and delivery. Vida Samim CGA. Ph. 477-4600 or 477-4601.

hey you!

David, those are some funky shoes! Bold with good taste. . . very charming. Next time I won't dash off the cross town.

Matt, 21 years and still no washroom adventures in a crowded restaurant. Maybe this year? Happy B-Day Henderwoman! Love D.

Satan: you couldn't have done any better.

All religious clubs and organizations advertising on the billboards page must adhere to the following statement: "Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender and sexuality."

billboard rates

students and clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/line
hey you!	$1/issue

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Meeting someone new doesn't have to be complicated, in fact it's never been easier! Chit Chat Personals helps connect thousands of Men and Women just like you everyday! Whether you're looking for Fun, Romance, or just someone to talk to, our service gives you the freedom and flexibility to choose from a wide variety of people online, while still maintaining your privacy,
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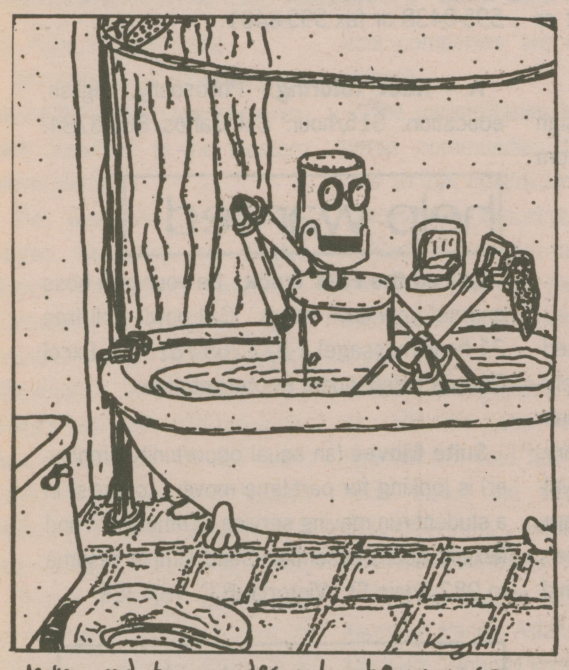
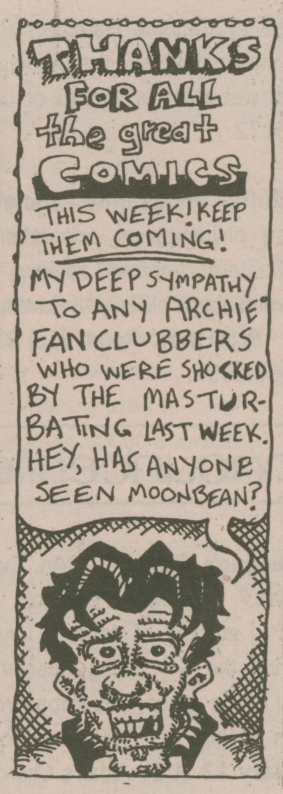
Wasted Space by John King



Mike used to wonder why he was so stiff after baths, until he realized it was because he was a robot.

Wasted Space by John King

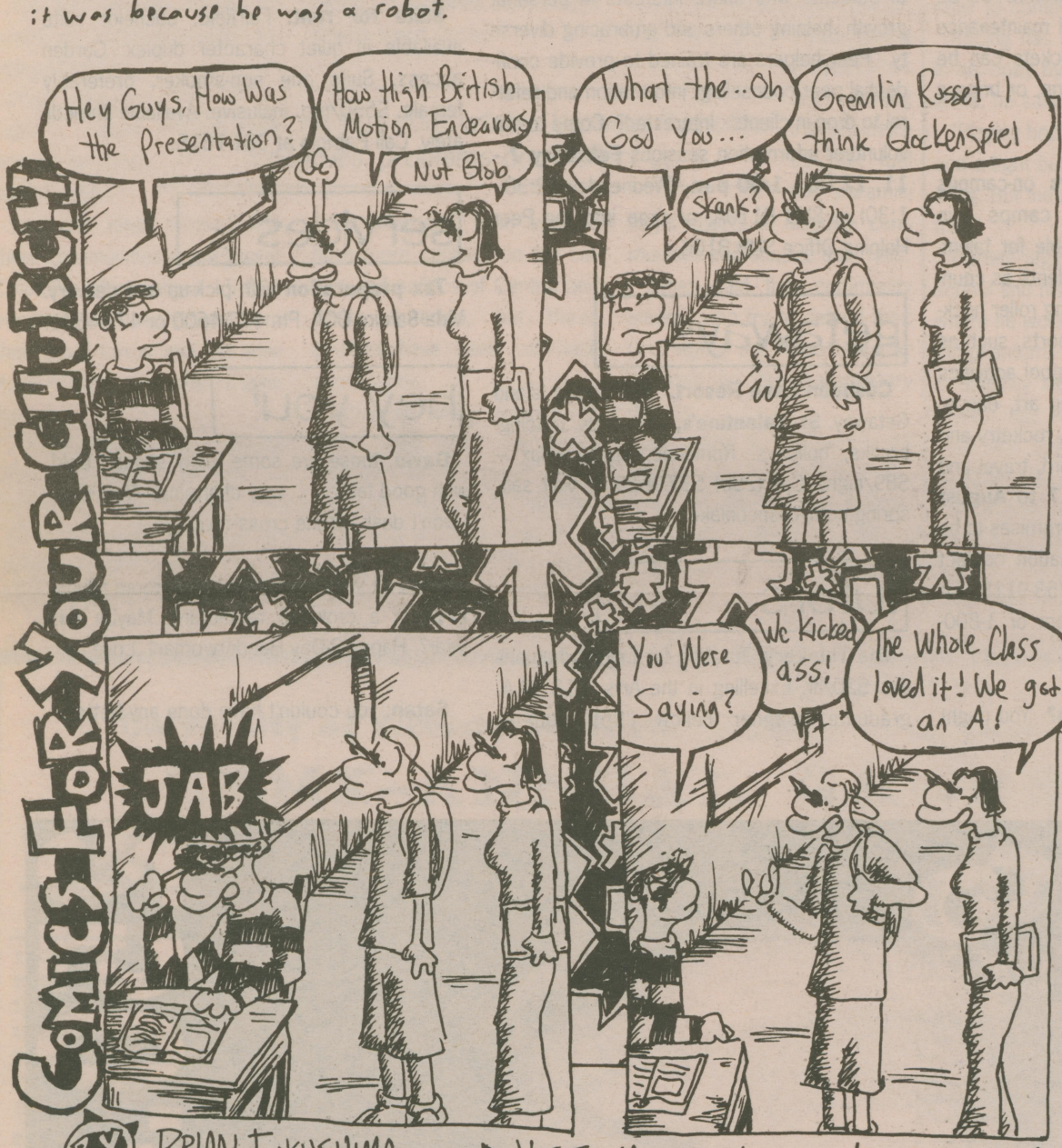
IF CHIHUAHUAS EVOLVE

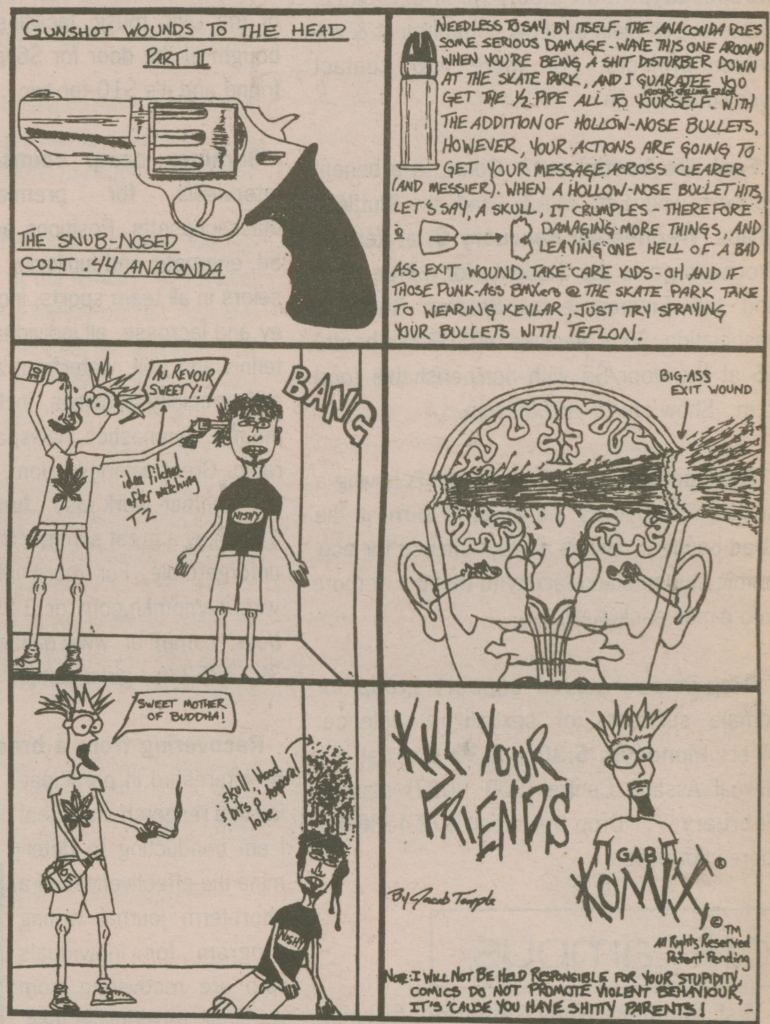

THANKS FOR ALL the great COMICS
THIS WEEK! KEEP THEM COMING!
MY DEEP SYMPATHY TO ANY ARCHIE FAN CLUBBERS WHO WERE SHOCKED BY THE MASTURBATING LAST WEEK.
HEY, HAS ANYONE SEEN MOONBEAN?

INSANUM EST ©

Random Thoughts for a crazy world.

The number of worms needed to entirely cover one's genitals is 23.




GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO THE HEAD
PART II
THE SNUB-NOSED COLT .44 ANACONDA
NEEDLESS TO SAY, BY ITSELF, THE ANACONDA DOES SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE - WAVE THIS ONE AROUND WHEN YOU'RE BEING A SHIT DISTURBER DOWN AT THE SKATE PARK, AND I GUARANTEE YOU GET THE ½ PIPE ALL TO YOURSELF. WITH THE ADDITION OF HOLLOW-NOSE BULLETS, HOWEVER, YOUR ACTIONS ARE GOING TO GET YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS CLEARER (AND MESSIER). WHEN A HOLLOW-NOSE BULLET HITS, LET'S SAY, A SKULL, IT CRUMPLES - THEREFORE DAMAGING MORE THINGS, AND LEAVING ONE HELL OF A BAD ASS EXIT WOUND. TAKE CARE KIDS - OH AND IF THOSE PUNK-ASS BMXers @ THE SKATE PARK TAKE TO WEARING KEVLAR, JUST TRY SPRAYING YOUR BULLETS WITH TEFLON.
AU REVOIR SWEETY!
BANG
idea filched after watching T2
BIG-ASS EXIT WOUND
SWEET MOTHER OF BUDDHA!
skull. Head. it hits a tropical tube
KILL YOUR FRIENDS
By Jacob Temple
GABF KOMIX ©TM
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NOTE: I WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR STUPIDITY, COMICS DO NOT PROMOTE VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR, IT'S 'CAUSE YOU HAVE SHITTY PARENTS!

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Dr. Cynthia A. Corbett
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